

ODT Associate Medical Director's Communication



Blood and Transplant



February 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Two important yet disparate items this month.

Firstly, SaBTO has recently given further advice on HEV and Rachel Hilton, Consultant Nephrologist, has kindly given a summary of this below. Incidentally the update on the well-known Microbiological Guidelines from SaBTO is also very close to completion and will be covered in a forthcoming Newsletter.

Secondly, just before Christmas, there was a record month for Live Donation and a new campaign is being run around Valentine's Day, so live donor staff within units may experience a rise in enquiries. Lisa Burnapp, Lead Nurse Living Donation, gives more detail on both these subjects.

Hepatitis E virus: HEV infection is mild and self-limiting in the majority of people but can cause serious harm in the immunosuppressed, which includes solid organ transplant recipients. In order to reduce the risk of HEV transmission via transfusion or transplantation, recently revised recommendations from SaBTO now say that all patients who are immunosuppressed should receive HEV-screened blood components; this includes solid organ transplant recipients, patients preparing for an elective organ transplant and patients who are on or who are about to be placed on the UK national transplant waiting lists. To reduce cost and the potential for error, universal screening of blood donations for HEV will be introduced by the UK Blood Services as soon as is practical. In addition, all solid organ donors (living or deceased) should be screened for

hepatitis E viraemia using HEV-NAT. We acknowledge the operational challenges of implementing such testing. While detectable viraemia is unlikely to be an absolute contra-indication to organ use, this will inform clinical management post-transplant. It should also be noted that immunocompromised patients are at far greater risk of HEV infection from diet than from transmission by transfusion or transplantation and it would be good practice for each unit to ensure that transplanted patients receive appropriate dietary advice.

See for example: <https://www.food.gov.uk/science/microbiology/hepatitis-e>

The final guidance will soon be available on the SaBTO website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/advisory-committee-on-the-safety-of-blood-tissues-and-organs>

Living donation hits an all-time high: November 2016 saw the highest living donation activity to date, with a total of 113 patients receiving a living donor transplant. This exceeded the previous record from November 2015 when 112 living donor transplants were performed in a single month. The end of 2016 also saw an increase in non-directed donation with eighteen non-directed altruistic kidney donors in November and ten in December, eight of whom donated into the Kidney Sharing Schemes to initiate an altruistic donor chain. Overall, 85 non-directed donors donated a kidney in 2016 resulting in a total of 126 transplants through a combination of direct donation (n=59) and altruistic donor chains (11 short, 15 long). With your help, our aim for 2017 is to encourage more of these donors to donate into a chain to maximise the benefit of every donation.

Whilst the increase in activity in November reflects the designated weeks of surgery for the October Kidney Sharing Schemes matching run, the quarterly trend is upward in comparison with the preceding months. Time will tell if this becomes an established trend. In the meantime, thank you all for your invaluable commitment and support to the programme - it is the collective effort that makes the difference.

Valentine's Campaign: 6th-14th February: Some of you will be aware that NHSBT and partner charities have launched a new campaign this week to raise awareness about living kidney donation. In a recent NHSBT survey of 1099 adults, conducted by Kantar Public in January this year, less than half (48%) of people were aware of living kidney donation but, when asked, 61% would consider becoming a kidney donor. Of these, almost half (49%) would consider donating to a family member, 22% to a friend and 14% to a stranger.

The 'kidney-shaped love' campaign aims to appeal to all potential donors- family, friend or stranger. The campaign is based in England but will reach across Wales and Northern Ireland. Scotland is running a separate campaign at the same time.

The December 2016 ODT SMT Performance Report: Headlines:

- YTD 2761 patients have received a transplant thanks to the generosity of 1049 deceased donors and the 1442 families or patients who gave consent/authorisation (April to December). This equates to 106 more deceased donor transplants than the same period last year, so we're on track for another record year.
- November was an exceptionally high month in terms of living donor numbers (113). This brings the total to 720 for the 8 months from April to November. 113 living donors in one month is a new record.
- Please read the full December ODT performance report [here](#) and the potential missed opportunities shown below and determine how you can play a part in making every opportunity count.

Potential missed opportunities in the first nine months of 2016/17:

- 65 families have overruled their loved ones' decision YTD (22 DBD, 43 DCD). This however has been improving throughout the year with monthly averages as follows: Q1=9, Q2=7, Q3=5. YTD this equates to 15 fewer overrides than the same nine months last year (+1 DBD, -16 DCD).
- 58 families were approached for a formal organ donation discussion without a SNOD when the patient was on the ODR. Consent was not ascertained in 20 cases. This has however improved since Q1 with numbers and consent rates as follows: Q1=17/27=63%, Q2=9/14=64%, Q3=12/17=71%. Overall for the year this equates to 66%, which is far lower than the consent rate achieved when best practice is followed: 93% when a SNOD is involved.
- 274 families were approached for a formal organ donation discussion without a SNOD when the patient was not on the ODR. Consent was not ascertained in 221 cases and the consent rate for this scenario has decreased throughout the year, with numbers and consent rates as follows: Q1=27/109=25%, Q2=15/86=17%, Q3=11/79=14%. Overall for the year this equates to 19%, which is far lower than the consent rate achieved when best practice is followed: 57% when a SNOD is involved.
- Of the 1326 patients with suspected neurological death, 182 were not tested and 35 were not referred.
 - Monthly average testing rates: Q1=87%, Q2=87%, Q3=85%, overall 86%.
 - Monthly average DBD referral rates: Q1=97%, Q2=98%, Q3=98%, overall 97%.
- Of the 4510 patients who met the DCD referral criteria, 649 were not referred.
 - Monthly average DCD referral rates: Q1=85%, Q2=86%, Q3=85%, overall 86%. Although there has not been an improvement since Q1, when compared with the first nine months of 2015/16 (82%), 86% is a sustained improvement throughout the year.
- In terms of ascertaining BAME consent from the 216 families approached for a formal organ donation discussion, consent was ascertained in 70 cases (32%), compared with 79/222=36% and 72/214=34% in the same period of 2014/15 and 2015/16, respectively.
 - Monthly averages this year: Q1=32%, Q2=30%, Q3=35%.

Cautionary Tales: Please click [here](#) for the January 2017 issue.

NHSBT Organ Specific Reports 2015/2016: Organ Specific Annual Reports detailing activity and outcomes for all transplant centres are available on the website here: <http://www.odt.nhs.uk/uk-transplant-registry/organ-specific-reports/> . These include a wealth of information and are supported by slide sets for anyone to use.

We are inviting feedback on these reports so that we can make improvements and meet the needs of all interested parties. Please follow this link to complete a short survey on these reports: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2DB9RHP> . The survey will close soon so this is your last chance to voice your opinions.

Organ Donation Trust/Board Performance Reports Survey: These reports are produced biannually to provide a detailed summary of organ donation activity within each Trust/Board in comparison with UK data and targets. We are currently reviewing the quality, content, and accessibility of these reports and ask that members of the donation community fill out a questionnaire to provide feedback. Please follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QHVRH8V> . This survey closes in March; the results will be collated to inform a formal review of report content.

Please take this opportunity to have your say in how we can make clearer the missed opportunities within your Trust/Board to help the UK become world-class in organ donation and transplantation.

Organ Donation and Transplantation Activity Report: The Organ Donation and Transplantation Annual Activity Reports for 2015/2016 are available on the ODT website. You can access them through the following link <http://www.odt.nhs.uk/uk-transplant-registry/annual-activity-report/>. The reports are accompanied by a slide set that you can download for your own use.

Up-to-date figures on a weekly basis can be found at: www.odt.nhs.uk click on 'latest statistics'.

NHSBT Board: Board papers are published after each meeting and are available at: <http://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/who-we-are/introducing-the-board/board-papers/>

Statistics and Clinical Studies: Please click [here](#) for the up-to-date November NHSBT Structure.

Organ Donation Marketing and Campaigns Bulletin: Shared with internal clinical staff for Organ Donation and Transplantation plus the wider community attached [here](#) is Issue No 7.

FUTURE ODT MEETINGS/EVENTS: 2017

- **Organ Donation Level 3 Meeting**
Thursday 9th February 2017 - Mary Ward House, London
- **National Deceased Donation Simulation Course**
Tuesday 21st - Wednesday 22nd February 2017 - Salford
- **NODC (National Organ Donation Committee)**
Tuesday 28th February 2017 - 12 Bloomsbury Square, London
- **Organ Donation Level 4 Meeting**
Wednesday 1st March 2017 - Mary Ward House, London
- **Clinical Lead Organ Donation Induction**
Tuesday 7th March 2017 – The Studio, Birmingham
- **Clinical Lead Organ Donation - Induction**
Tuesday 14th – Wednesday 15th March 2017 – The Wesley Hotel, London
- **PAGISG (Pancreas Islet Sub Group)**
Tuesday 14th March 2017 - Royal College of Surgeons, London
- **BAG (Bowel Advisory Group)**
Wednesday 15th March 2017 – West End Donor Centre, London
- **NRG (National Retrieval Group)**
Wednesday 29th March 2017 - 12 Bloomsbury Square, London
- **PAG (Pancreas Advisory Group)**
Wednesday 5th April 2017 - Association of Anaesthetists, Portland Place, London
- **CTAG (Cardiothoracic Advisory Group)**
Wednesday 26th April 2017 - Association of Anaesthetists, Portland Place, London
- **KAGPSG (Kidney Paediatric Sub Group)**
Wednesday 26th April 2017 - West End Donor Centre, London

- **LAG (Liver Advisory Group)**
Wednesday 10th May 2017 - 12 Bloomsbury Square, London
- **RINTAG (Research, Innovation & Novel Technologies Advisory Group)**
Monday 15th May 2017 - The Royal College of Anaesthetists, London

INFORMATION FROM OTHER BODIES:

Blood and Transplant Matters: Please click [here](#) for issue 50.

Organ Donation and Transplantation – Wales E Bulletin: Please click [here](#) for Issue 48

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

The Hesperis Course: Wednesday 22nd – Saturday 25th March 2017, Rome. Hesperis attempts to provide advanced knowledge in transplantation for professionals who are entering the field.

The main objective is to provide advanced overviews and inspiring discussions of the most relevant aspects of transplantation for physicians, surgeons and scientists entering the field of transplantation in a European transplant centre. Please click on the following link for further information <http://www.esot.org/events-education/events>

International Hands-on Course - Live Donor Course Nephrectomy (LiDo course)
28th – 30th June 2017. Erasmus MC Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Educational Objectives: To provide a podium for transplant surgeons and urologists who are specialising in live donor kidney transplantation and to learn the surgical techniques for minimally-invasive kidney donation under the guidance of established and internationally recognised leaders in the field.

Target Group: Transplant surgeons and urologists coming mainly from Europe. Surgeons or urologists in a transplant fellowship or consultant position who want to start a live kidney donation programme.

Surgeons who want to enrich their surgical skills for live donor nephrectomy. Please follow this link for further information. <http://www.esot.org/events-education/events>

BigBangBarcelona Conference: 24th – 27th September 2017 be inspired, educated, connected and entertained. Come and experience a new level of medical meetings in transplantation. At ESOT we have put a focus on the quality of the science but also the formats in which the content is delivered and the opportunity to network with your colleagues. Get engaged in this interactive meeting and take an active role in shaping the future of transplantation research and medicine. The ESOT 2017 Second Announcement is now available for download, with more information on the Congress' ground breaking sessions and speciality symposia.

<http://esot2017.esot.org/news/second-announcement-now-available>

With best wishes



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