OPTN Heart Transplantation Committee
Meeting Summary
October 4, 2023
Conference Call

Richard C. Daly, MD, Chair
Jondavid Menteer, MD, Vice-Chair

Introduction

The Heart Committee ("Committee") met via WebEx teleconference on 10/04/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Continuous Distribution (CD) of Hearts
2. Identify potential efficiency improvements related to allocation of hearts, reminder for 10/17 meeting, & closing remarks

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions.

1. Continuous Distribution (CD) of Hearts

The Committee reviewed public comments received on CD of hearts concept paper and discussed them.

Summary of discussion:

When discussing the public comments the Committee shared support for moving to CD, held mixed opinions on transplant survival, and shared concerns on size matching and geographic equity. The committee also agreed that using waiting list mortality rates as a proxy for assigning adult heart statuses made sense conceptually, though details still need to be worked out. They also revised the description for candidates supported long-term by ventricular assist devices (VAD). The Committee did agree that the patient profile descriptions can be used in the VPE for attributes like medically urgent candidates and pediatric candidates. The committee confirmed decisions made at the in-person meeting regarding the rating scales for blood type (all points to O) and sensitization (highest priority to candidates ≥80% CPRA). Towards the end there was some disagreement over the details of the rating scale for sensitization. A committee member expressed the concern that candidates should start accruing some priority points at a lower CPRA level (10-20%), while the initial proposal did not give points until 50% CPRA.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue discussing waiting list mortality rates as a proxy for assigning adult heart statuses in future meetings.

2. Identify potential efficiency improvements related to allocation of hearts

The Chair presented why efficiency allocation is a challenge, noting a variety of factors.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee discussed ideas to improve efficiency that could lead to greater organ utilization, including variability in organ acceptance rates, minimum data requirements, transportation logistics and ex vivo organ perfusion. These will be considered by the Efficiency Task Force. Participants agreed on

the importance of improving efficiency in order to increase organ utilization, such as through better data sharing practices and consideration of valid reasons for variability across transplant centers. However, there was significant discussion around improving efficiency in organ allocation and utilization in order to maximize the use of donated organs. This included ideas around standardizing minimum donor data requirements, acknowledging valid reasons for variability in organ acceptance rates across centers, transportation logistics, and the use of ex vivo organ perfusion. Some concerns were raised about transportation logistics and relying on perfusion technology to take hearts longer distances. There were differing perspectives brought up regarding what defines an efficient or successful transplant program - some felt volume was most important, while others argued good outcomes matter more. There's also variability in risk tolerance.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue discussing the elements that need to go in CD of Hearts.

Upcoming Meeting

- October 17, 2023

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Rocky Daly, Chair
  - J. D. Menteer, Vice Chair
  - Amrut Ambardekar
  - Kim Baltierra
  - Jennifer Carapellucci
  - Jennifer Cowger
  - Eman Hamad
  - Glen Kelley
  - Cindy Martin
  - Nadar Moazami
  - Fawwaz Shaw
  - Martha Tankersely
  - Earl Lovell
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Yoon Son Ahn
  - Katie Audette
  - Monica Colvin
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Alex Carmack
  - Cole Fox
  - Eric Messick
  - Sara Rose Wells
  - Kelsi Lindblad
  - Emily Howell
  - Alina Martinez
- **Other Attendees**
  - Samantha Taylor
  - Daniel Yip