

**OPTN Ad Hoc Disease Transmission Advisory Committee
Endemic Workgroup
Meeting Summary
June 27, 2022
Conference Call**

**Ricardo La Hoz, MD, FACP, FAST, FIDSA, Chair
Lara Danziger-Isakov, MD, MPH, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The OPTN Endemic Workgroup (the Workgroup) met via Citrix GoTo teleconference 06/27/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. West Nile Virus
2. West Nile Virus Data Request

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

1. West Nile Virus

The Workgroup reviewed West Nile Virus (WNV) data regarding false positive testing rates, turn around time for test results, and seasonal spikes in cases.

A Workgroup member presented pros and cons of universal screening for WNV by OPOs:

Pros:

- High transmission/high neuroinvasive disease
- Can prevent WNV transmission
- Worse outcome than mosquito bite

Cons:

- False positive rate (47%)
- Cost/Delay
- Mosquito bite still happens
- Discarded organs

Summary of discussion:

A member noted in 2018 there was .51 per 100K incidences for WNV, reflecting how low rates are. Another member claimed universal screening is not helpful with the level of false positivity rate. The Vice Chair highlighted the risk for discard when using a universal screening approach. A member suggested there is a role for targeted screening based on regionality and seasonality (May-November). Members agreed but emphasized targeted screening must be easily conducted by OPOs and consider all logistical issues.

A Workgroup member voiced concern about the false positivity rates. The member noted OPOs do not receive results quickly and universal screening during the summer months would be a huge burden and involve a large increase in costs. Another member voiced concerns about false negative testing and suggested conducting antibody testing as well. The Vice Chair claimed this would result in greater organ

discard as transplant teams may be reluctant to recover organs with a positive antibody test. The majority of the Workgroup members are supportive of seasonal screening.

2. West Nile Virus Data Request

UNOS Staff asked the Workgroup what information would be helpful to include in a data request. UNOS Staff suggested the intent of the data request would be to determine the feasibility of obtaining WNV NAT testing prior to procurement. The request would include the number/percent of OPOs and donors who have had WNV testing reported prior to procurement.

Summary of discussion:

The Vice Chair wants the request to reflect whether OPOs are targeted and seasonal testing for WNV and having success. UNOS staff noted we will not be able to ascertain test result turnaround time through the request but will be able to determine the number of tests conducted by each OPO.

Next steps:

The Workgroup agreed on the following next steps:

- Workgroup members will examine the data request to capture feasibility of a targeted seasonal approach for WNV testing before making any permanent decisions.

Upcoming Meeting

- TBD

Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
 - Sarah Taimur
 - Ann E. Woolley
 - Emily Blumberg
 - Dong Lee
 - Helen Te
 - Kelly Dunn
 - Jason D. Goldman
 - Michelle Kittleson
 - Stephanie Pouch
 - Lara Danziger-Isakov
 - Ricardo La Hoz
 - Gary Marklin
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - James Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Courtney Jett
 - Taylor Livelli
 - Christine Chyu
 - Amelia Devereaux
 - Sandy Bartal
- **FDA Staff**
 - Brychan Clark
- **CDC Staff**
 - Rebecca Free
 - Ian Kracalik
 - Pallavi Annambhotla
 - Sridhar Basavaraju