

The 2008 Annual Report of the OPTN and SRTR

Heart Transplantation in the U.S., 1998-2007

Overview

- This chapter highlights trends in heart transplantation from 1998 to 2007, using data from the OPTN and SRTR.
- The number of candidates actively awaiting heart transplantation has declined steadily, from 2,525 in 1998 to 1,408 in 2007, a 44% decrease. Despite this decline, a larger proportion of patients are listed as either Status 1A or 1B, likely secondary to increased use of mechanical circulatory support.
- During this time, the overall death rate among patients awaiting heart transplantation fell from 220 to 142 patients per 1,000 patient-years at risk; this likely reflects better medical and surgical options for those with end-stage heart failure. This trend was noted across all racial groups, both sexes, all disease etiologies (re-transplantation excepted), and all status groups.
- Recipient numbers were relatively stable over the past decade. In 2007, 2,207 transplants were performed, although the proportion of patients transplanted as Status 1A shifted from 34% to 50%. A trend toward transplanting more patients above 65 years of age was seen.
- Adjusted patient (and graft) survival at three months, one, five, and 10 years after transplantation has gradually, but significantly, improved during the same period; current patient survival estimates are 93%, 88%, 74%, and 55%, respectively.

Summary Figures

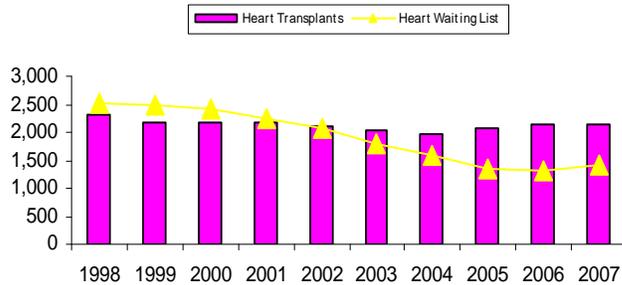
The figures on the following page are “dashboard” views of the state of heart transplantation. Details on the implications of these figures, and explanations of the methods used in creating them, are included in Chapter V of this year’s report.

The 2008 OPTN/SRTR Annual Report

The data and analyses reported in the 2008 Annual Report of the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network and the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients have been supplied by the United Network for Organ Sharing and the Arbor Research Collaborative for Health under contract with the Department of Health and Human Services. The authors alone are responsible for reporting and interpreting these data; the views expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Government.

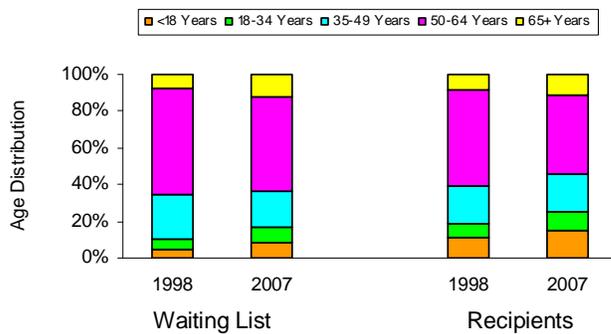
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Heart Transplantation at a Glance



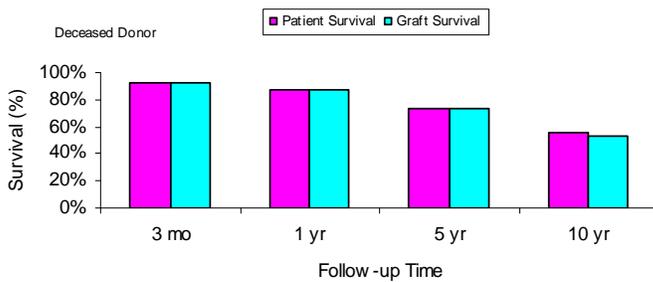
Number of Transplants and Size of Active Waiting List.

The number of heart transplants has increased since 2005 following several years of gradual reduction. The number of patients awaiting a heart decreased steeply from 2000 to 2005, likely reflecting improvements in medical and surgical therapy for end-stage heart failure. Source: 2008 OPTN/SRTR Annual Report, Tables 1.7, 11.1a.



Age Distribution of Recipients and Active Waiting List.

Trends in the age distribution of wait-listed candidates show that the proportions (and absolute numbers) of patients younger than 35 and older than 64 years increased, while the age group 35-64 years was less represented. The trend in transplant recipient age showed a similar pattern, although the ages below 35 years had greater representation than on the waiting list. Source: 2008 OPTN/SRTR Annual Report, Tables 11.1a, 11.4.



Unadjusted Patient and Graft Survival.

Patient survival improved in recent years for heart recipients. At one, five, and 10 years following heart transplantation, 88%, 74%, and 55% of patients, respectively, were alive. Graft survival was very similar to patient survival because very few patients receive a second heart transplant. Source: 2008 OPTN/SRTR Annual Report, Tables 11.10, 11.14.