

OPTN Ad Hoc Disease Transmission Committee

Meeting Summary

March 28, 2022

Conference Call

Ricardo La Hoz, MD, FACP, FAST, FIDSA, Chair

Lara Danziger-Isakov, MD, MPH, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Ad Hoc Disease Transmission Committee (the Committee) met via Microsoft Teams teleconference on 03/28/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. 9 Month LRT Monitoring Report
2. Review of Pathogens of Special Interest

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

1. 9 Month LRT Monitoring Report

The Committee heard the 9 month Lower Respiratory SARS- CoV2 Testing (LRT) post- implementation monitoring report.

Summary of discussion:

A member commented that they would be interested in reviewing organ utilization data trends throughout the Alpha, Delta, and Omicron COVID variants.

The Committee reviewed organ utilization and discard rates by LRT from May 27, 2001 to February 28, 2022. A member asked if a positive result is assumed a false positive upon receipt of discordant results and asked how the false positives are confirmed. A CDC member responded that some false positive results during investigations were attributed to the use of a particular testing platform. UNOS staff confirmed that the 9 month LRT monitoring report did not capture testing platform data.

A CDC member inquired about the efficacy of antiviral drugs in transplant candidates. A member responded that these drugs have not been studied in transplant recipients specifically, but overall look to reduce hospitalization rates. The CDC member continued, asking about the possibility of using COVID positive organs in the future should antiviral therapeutics become effective enough. Another member commented that most transplants are occurring without prophylactic interventions and many transplant programs are not using antivirals due to a shortage of these drugs and low risk of transmission. This member continued that perhaps lung transplant recipients would use antivirals more often, as the risk of transmission could be higher.

A member asked what outcomes data would be included in the 12 month LRT monitoring report. UNOS staff responded that this report will include patient 6 month and graft survival. A member asked if the 2 lungs recovered from donors with positive COVID-19 LRT came from the same or two different donors. UNOS staff responded that these were two lungs from the same donor.

A member commented that as COVID rates go down, false positive results may increase and could interfere with utilization rates. They continued that being able to recognize these false positives could

decrease the number of wasted usable organs. The Committee noted that they should begin to consider the timeline for repealing the emergency policy.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to review LRT data during the 12 month monitoring report.

2. Review of Pathogens of Special Interest

The Committee reviewed the list of pathogens of special interest that require reporting to the receiving transplant program's patient safety contact and the OPTN Improving Patient Safety Portal.

Summary of discussion:

A member referenced the diseases listed under arboviral infections and asked the group if they believed this could be interpreted as the exhaustive list that must be reported. A UNOS staff member noted that a comprehensive list would be helpful for reference and a committee member agreed.

Some members supported addition of Cryptococcus to the list. Ultimately, it was determined that Cryptococcus should not be included, as it is the second most reported fungal infection reviewed by DTAC and that very few of these cases are donor derived.

Members favored keeping Strongyloides on the list while the endemic workgroup continues to explore this disease.

A member suggested that the pathogens list should be restructured into bacterial, viral, fungal, and parasitic categories to improve user access. The Committee agreed with the restructuring recommendation and came to the consensus that an introduction explaining how and when to report a pathogen of special interest should be added to the beginning of the list.

Next steps:

The Committee suggested that upon update, UNOS could send its members information about the changes made to the list of pathogens of special interest.

3. Trends in Living Donor Malignancy Observations

A Committee member presented trends in living donor malignancy observations.

Summary of discussion:

A member clarified that these malignancies are reported in the living donor at a time after donation and that no transmission of any malignancies have been reported in the United States. The Committee agreed these trends show that there is low risk of transmission, but that 5 year follow-up is warranted.

Upcoming Meetings

- April 5, 2022, 3 pm ET (teleconference) – Endemic Workgroup
- April 25, 2022, 12 pm ET (teleconference) – Pediatric Public Comment Review

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Gerald Berry
 - Kelly Dunn
 - Ricardo La Hoz
 - Gary Marklin
 - Stephanie Marie Pouch
 - Sam Ho
 - Lara Danziger-Isakov
 - Deborah Jo Levine
 - Helen Te
 - Sarah Taimur
 - Dong Lee
 - Ann E. Woolley
 - Raymund R. Razonable
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Raelene Skerda
 - James Bowman
- **FDA Staff**
 - Brychan Clark
 - Scott Brubaker
- **CDC Staff**
 - Sridhar Basavaraju
 - Pallavi Annambhotla
 - Rebecca Free
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Cole Fox
 - Sarah Booker
 - Sandy Bartal
 - Amelia Devereaux
 - Kelley Poff
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Susan Tlusty