

OPTN/UNOS Transplant Coordinator Committee (TCC)
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2019
Conference Call

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Introduction

The Transplant Coordinator Committee (TCC) met via Citrix GoTo teleconference on 01/16/2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Public Comment Presentation- Ethics Committee White Paper on Multi- Organ Transplants (MOT)

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

1. Public Comment Presentation- Ethics Committee White Paper on Multi-Organ Transplants (MOT)

The Committee will hear a presentation on the Ethics Committee's White Paper on Multi-Organ Transplantation.

Data summary:

Elisa Gordon, Chair of the OPTN Ethics Committee reported on their MOT white paper currently out for public comment. Dr. Gordon shared ethical dilemmas surrounding MOT, reported on proposed solutions, and sought comment from the TCC. She focused on impact of quality and relative futility.

Summary of discussion:

Overall the Committee favored the concepts presented in the white paper in order to guide establishing policies that are needed to help resolve current ethical issues surrounding MOT.

Committee members commented that the logistical and ethical topics presented within the paper are in fact real life issues when considering broader sharing of all organs, especially MOT. These members agreed that an increase in organ discards in MOT cases is a major issue. One member reported the need for backing up organs in order to reduce the number of discards.

The presenter from the Ethics committee then asked members of TCC for feedback.

- The presenter ask about more information about the prevalence of organ loss in the operating room (OR). A committee member answered that this issue most often occurs with thoracic due to the hesitation of thoracic programs to back each other up and recover from one another's ORs. If a heart is declined by a team and then offered to another center, this program will likely not accept it because they were not there to recover it.
 - Solutions suggested
 - The establishment of policies that would allocate organs in these specific circumstances. Which could reduce cold ischemic time and increase the number of transplanted organs.
 - Shifting focus on data outcomes in order to find out where organs are having the most success and failures over time.

- A member asked about MOT candidates' rapid rate of receiving organs vs. single organ transplant (SOT) candidates that have been waiting for years. She asked how equity could be established in these situations. The presenter said she would bring this question back to the committee.

The topic then shifted to the management of pediatrics and MOT. The committee asked for more attention to pediatrics and MOT so more guidance could be provided in the future with eventual policy establishment. The presenter reported that adults have been the focus so far, but that the Pediatrics Committee wanted more attention on this population as well. The presenter will bring those comments back to the Ethic Committee.

Next steps:

TCC will more closely examine the white paper and return with additional feedback. The Committee will submit a formal public comment.

Upcoming Meeting

- February 19th, 2019 In person meeting, Chicago IL