

OPTN Vascular Composite Allograft Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

September 9, 2020

Conference Call

Bohdan Pomahac, MD, Chair
Sandra Amaral, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Vascular Composite Allograft Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 09/09/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. OPTN Engagement Opportunities and Public Comment Update
2. Project Idea Survey Results
3. Public Comment Proposal: *Modify Living Donor Policy to Include VCA Living Donors*
4. Public Comment Proposal: *Incorporating COVID-19 Related Organ Failure in Candidate Listings*
5. Public Comment Proposal: *Align OPTN Policy with U.S. Public Health Service Guideline, 2020*

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

1. OPTN Engagement Opportunities and Public Comment Update

The Committee was reminded of the following opportunities:

- Board and Committee nominations
- Public Comment
- Virtual regional meetings
- OPTN Regional Review

They also received a public comment update on:

- *Programming VCA Allocation into UNet*- All votes from regions 4 and 5 were strongly support, support, or neutral/abstain
- *Modify Data Collection on Living VCA Donors*- All votes but one (in region 4) from region 4, region 5, and the Transplant Coordinators Committee (TCC) were strongly support, support, or neutral/abstain

Summary of discussion:

There was no discussion.

Next steps:

- Board and Committee nominations close on September 30, 2020.
- Public comment closes on October 1, 2020.

2. Project Idea Survey Results

The Committee reviewed the survey results for their next project. "Membership requirements for uterus or genitourinary transplant programs" was voted as the Committee's highest priority, followed by "increase awareness of VCA donation and transplantation."

Summary of discussion:

The Vice Chair shared that Committee leadership are interested in forming a workgroup or subcommittee focused on issues and projects related to uterus transplantation since the field is advancing rapidly. The Vice Chair asked members to email UNOS staff if they are interested in supporting such a workgroup or subcommittee.

Next steps:

The Committee will discuss these project ideas in more detail during their next meeting on 10/14/2020.

3. Public Comment Proposal: *Modify Living Donor Policy to Include VCA Living Donors*

Summary of discussion:

A member asked what living non-genitourinary VCAs (apart from a uterus transplant) and living genitourinary VCAs the proposal refers to? The presenter responded that living non-genitourinary could refer to upper limb, head and neck, etc., while living genitourinary VCAs could refer to testicular transplant. He added that this proposal aims to be broad and flexible as the field of living VCA transplant evolves. The member asked if any new living VCAs should be evaluated from an ethical standpoint before the establishment of consent requirements. Another member agreed and asked why the Living Donor Committee had not chosen to apply the proposed policy to uterus only, as ethical conversations surrounding VCAs that could potentially become more popular in time (such as testicular transplant) have not yet began. The presenter said he would share this feedback with the Living Donor Committee. A member asked when VCA outcomes information will be included in the informed consent process. UNOS staff shared that VCA is currently excluded from the requirement in OPTN *Policy 14: Living Donation* to share outcomes from SRTR program-specific reports, as VCA is not yet programmed into UNetSM and in turn, that data is not yet available to inform those SRTR reports.

Sentiment voting results: 5 Strongly Support, 7 Support, 1 Neutral/Abstain, 0 Oppose, 0 Strongly Oppose

Next steps:

The VCA Transplantation Committee will draft and post a comment on *Modify Living Donor Policy to Include VCA Living Donors* to the OPTN public comment website. The VCA Transplantation Committee and the Living Donor Committee will have the opportunity to discuss public comment feedback further during their joint meeting on 10/26/2020.

4. Public Comment Proposal: *Incorporating COVID-19 Related Organ Failure in Candidate Listings*

Summary of discussion:

A member reported that he is not aware of any VCA organs that have failed due to COVID-19. A member asked if there had been any organs other than lung that have failed due to COVID-19? The presenter answered that she was not aware of any at this time. The VCA Committee does not see the need to establish COVID-19 related diagnosis codes for VCA.

Next steps:

The VCA Transplantation Committee will draft and post a comment on *Incorporating COVID-19 Related Organ Failure in Candidate Listings* to the OPTN public comment website.

5. Public Comment Proposal: *Align OPTN Policy with U.S. Public Health Service Guideline, 2020*

Summary of discussion:

A member asked if programs would be required to test every single recipient, regardless of the donor meeting any high risk criteria. The presenter confirmed this. A member ask how it would take to program this feature into DonorNet. The implementation timeframe is typically 3 months and the policies would go into effect by March 1, 2021. A member reported that that their program is concerned with the high volume of testing that would be required if this proposal was passed.

Sentiment voting results: 0 Strongly Support, 5 Support, 1 Neutral/Abstain, 2 Oppose, 0 Strongly Oppose

Next steps:

The VCA Transplantation Committee will draft and post a comment in regards on *Align OPTN Policy with U.S. Public Health Service Guideline, 2020* on to the OPTN public comment website.

Upcoming Meetings

- October 14, 2020 (teleconference)
- October 26, 2020 (virtual)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Sandra Amaral
 - Lawrence Gottlieb
 - Darla Granger
 - Liza Johannesson
 - Nicole Johnson
 - Bohdan Pomahac
 - Patrick Smith
 - Simon Talbot
 - Stefan Tullius
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Kristine Althaus
 - Sarah Booker
 - Lindsay Larkin
 - Lauren Mauk
 - Elizabeth Miller
 - Tamika Qualls
 - Tina Rhoades
 - Leah Slife
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Jen Wainright
 - Emily Ward
 - Karen Williams
- **Other Attendees**
 - Robert Goodman (visiting board member)
 - Stevan Gonzalez (Living Donor Committee)
 - Erika Lease (Lung Transplantation Committee)
 - Lara Danziger-Isakov (Disease Transmission Advisory Committee)