

Improve Deceased Donor Evaluation for Endemic Diseases

OPTN Ad Hoc Disease Transmission Advisory Committee

Purpose of Proposal

- Risk for endemic disease transmission through organ transplant is increasing due to movement of populations and broader organ distribution
- Endemic Diseases Subcommittee of DTAC reviewed potential gaps in education and policy regarding certain endemic diseases that presented significant patient safety risks and for which mitigation and treatment strategies exist but are not in common use
- Strongyloides and Chagas (*Trypanosoma cruzi*) are endemic diseases that have high potential for morbidity and potential mortality if transmitted to recipients
 - Two most common causes of donor-derived parasitic infections reviewed by DTAC
 - Promotes patient safety because parasitic infections can be deadly to immunocompromised individuals

Proposal

- Universal deceased donor antibody screening test for Strongyloides
- Antibody screening test for deceased donors born in countries currently classified as endemic for Chagas by the CDC
 - Chagas antibody screening test results must be available pre-transplant
- If a deceased donor has a positive antibody screening test for Chagas:
 - Confirmatory testing is required through the CDC or
 - Two different tests must be performed that are FDA licensed, approved, or cleared antibody diagnostic tests

Rationale

- Since 2008, there have been 39 proven or probable transmissions of Strongyloides adjudicated by DTAC
- Strongyloides is preventable through prophylaxis
- Through optional testing, we have prevented 475 potential cases through treatment of recipients
- Since 2008, there have been five proven or probable transmissions of Chagas adjudicated by DTAC
- Chagas is treatable, however there can be severe side effects from the medication
- Both Chagas and Strongyloides if untreated can lead to death
- Screening will help reduce transmissions without decreasing the donor pool
- Support from OPO, TAC, MPSC and OSC Committees for clarity on endemic diseases

Member Actions

- **Organ Procurement Organizations**

- Set up agreements or modify testing protocols to obtain lab testing for Strongyloides and Chagas
- Modify deceased donor screening questions and documentation for identifying donors that were born in countries endemic for Chagas
- Additional testing may require additional communication with transplant programs/staff education

- **Transplant Hospitals**

- Set up protocols to review new infectious disease results and provide recipient treatment as appropriate
- Modifications to deceased donor testing may require modifications to medical record systems, particularly for transplant specific modules
- Staff education

What do you think?

- Should Chagas screening results be required pre-transplant?
- Should Chagas screening results be required pre-transplant only if the heart is being allocated?
- What barriers are in place for OPOs to access Chagas and Strongyloides antibody and Chagas confirmatory testing?
- Do patients support increased testing of deceased donor organs to prevent disease transmission?