

**OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee
Meeting Summary
September 12, 2024
Conference Call**

**Matthew Hartwig, MD, Chair
Dennis Lyu, MD, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The Lung Transplantation Committee (Committee) met via Webex teleconference on 9/12/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Background: Candidate Biology in Continuous Distribution
2. Open Forum

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

1. Background: Candidate Biology in Lung Continuous Distribution

During the March 21, 2024 [meeting](#) in Houston, TX, the Committee agreed to proceed with a formal data request to the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) for an adjusted analysis examining equity in lung allocation by height, HLA sensitization (measured by Calculated Panel Reactive Antibodies, or CPRA), and blood type. The Committee supported examining potential interactions between height & blood type in relation to transplant access.

During the August 8, 2024 meeting, the Committee received an overview of candidate biology in Lung Continuous Distribution (CD), in preparation for the following SRTR data request¹ results.

Presentation Summary:

SRTR Data Request

The primary goal of the data request was to determine whether adult lung candidates of equal medical urgency have differential access to lung transplant based on their biology (i.e. height, blood type, CPRA). Analyses included data from September 27, 2023 to March 27, 2024.

Summary of results²:

- Differences in transplant rate by blood type, CPRA, and height were statistically significant
 - Differences were present in both unadjusted and adjusted analyses, which controlled for medical urgency (i.e. WLAUC) and expected post-transplant survival (i.e. PTAUC)
- Blood type:
 - Candidates with blood type O had 37% lower transplant rates than type A with the same medical urgency
 - Transplant rates for blood type A and type B candidates were similar

¹ Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients, SRTR LU2024_01, presented Sept. 12, 2024.

² Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients, SRTR LU2024_01, presented Sept. 12, 2024. Note: To maintain content integrity, this summary directly paraphrases the report and presentation, created by SRTR experts.

- Type AB candidates had a 94% higher transplant rate than type A candidates
- Height:
 - Shorter candidates had much lower transplant rates than taller candidates with the same medical urgency scores
 - For candidates in the 75th percentile for height (5 ft 9 in, 175 cm), the transplant rate was 61% than candidates in the 25th percentile (5 ft 3 in, 160 cm)
 - When adjusting for medical urgency and post-transplant survival, there was an even greater difference in transplant rates between shorter and taller candidates
 - For candidates in the 75th percentile for height (5 ft 9 in, 175 cm), the transplant rate was 47% than candidates in the 25th percentile (5 ft 3 in, 160 cm)
- CPRA:
 - Sensitized candidates* had significantly lower transplant rates than non-sensitized candidates
 - Compared to candidates with no acceptable antigens and same medical urgency score, candidates with 50% CPRA had a 27% lower transplant rate

*Of note, members have reported CPRA data are likely missing at non-random due to certain transplant program behaviors.

- Waitlist Mortality:
 - In the overall cohort, the 6-month incidence of waitlist mortality
 - No statistically significant differences in the cumulative incidence, by blood type or height

The presenter noted that compared to candidates with blood types A, B or AB, estimated adjusted mortality incidence of candidates with blood type O tended to be higher, and tended to decrease with height.

The presentation included additional details on the methods and results of the data request.

Policy Options

There was an overview of key steps to changing allocation policy, including an introduction to tools to develop and assess allocation changes. These will be discussed in greater detail on September 27, 2024 during the Committee's in person meeting.

Summary of discussion:

No decisions were made.

Committee leadership asked members to review the SRTR data results and to consider how the Committee may proceed.

Next steps

The Committee will continue to discuss candidate biology under CD of Lungs at their September 27, 2024 meeting.

2. Open Forum

There were no open forum speakers.

Upcoming Meetings

- September 27, 2024, 8 AM ET Detroit, MI

- October 10, 2024, 5 PM ET, teleconference

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Matthew Hartwig
 - Dennis Lyu
 - Marie Budev
 - Thomas Kaleekal
 - Gary Schwartz
 - Jordan Hoffman
 - Lara Schaheen
 - Sid Kapnadak
 - Wayne Tsuang
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - James Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
 - David Schladt
 - Katie Audette
 - Maryam Valapour
 - Nick Wood
 - Grace Lyden
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Kelley Poff
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Chelsea Hawkins
 - Houlder Hudgins
 - Samantha Weiss
 - Susan Tlusty