

OPTN Vascularized Composite Allograft Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

February 19, 2025

Conference Call

Vijay Gorantla, MD, PhD, Chair
Paige Porrett, MD, PhD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Vascularized Composite Allograft (VCA) Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via WebEx teleconference on 02/19/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. VCA OPTN Inclusion

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

1. VCA OPTN Inclusion

Presentation Summary

The Committee wants to develop ways to do impactful work that helps integrate VCA transplantation into the broader transplant community. This meeting is to brainstorm ideas that use the Committee's valuable expertise and time to help broaden awareness and advocate for VCA transplantation.

Summary of Discussion:

No decisions were made regarding this agenda item.

The Committee discussed ideas that could increase exposure of VCA transplants within the OPTN and transplant community. Several members suggested getting VCA transplantation as a topic on the agenda for regional meetings. The Committee expressed understanding and disappointment that there was no room for a VCA informational update on the most recent agenda for regional meetings due to the large number of policy proposals. They discussed additional ways they might advocate for VCA at regional meetings, such as bringing up the subject during informal conversations with attendees.

Another idea the Committee discussed was resuming work on a patient page for VCA on the OPTN website. The Committee felt the website patient page would help boost VCA visibility and benefit patients looking to learn more about VCA transplants. Another suggestion was to partner with Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) and advocate for them to receive performance points for VCA transplants. The Committee felt that OPOs were some of their strongest supporters, along with patient advocates.

The Committee spoke about the need for flexibility and communication in a continually evolving situation. One member asked if it was possible to address funding as it is such a crucial subject for their patients. The Chair agreed the issue was important but reminded the Committee that funding and reimbursement are beyond the scope of the Committee.

Next steps:

- Assess the status of the VCA patient OPTN website page idea.

Upcoming Meeting

- March 19, 2025

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Vijay Gorantla
 - Paige Porrett
 - Elliott Richards
 - Charlie Thomas
 - Bruce Gelb
 - Amanda Gruendell
 - Sheila May Advento
 - Christina Kaufman
 - Ericka Harrison
 - Gregory McKenna
 - Todd Levy

- **SRTR Staff**
 - Avery Cook

- **UNOS Staff**
 - Ethan Studenic
 - Kristina Hogan
 - Erin Schnellinger
 - Kaitlin Swanner