

OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

January 7, 2022

Conference Call

James Pomposelli, MD, PhD, Chair

Scott Biggins, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 01/07/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Project Portfolio Review
2. Continuous Distribution: Identification and Categorization of Attributes

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

1. Project Portfolio Review

The Committee reviewed the current project portfolio.

Summary of discussion:

The floor was opened for discussion on potential projects.

A member suggested the Committee develop a work group to explore data collection for perfusion devices. After reviewing the perfusion device data currently collected by the OPTN, another member suggested the addition of data fields regarding perimeters for viability, such as glucose metabolism. Members commented on the complexity of the topic and agreed upon a general interest in developing a work group for perfusion device data collection.

The Committee reviewed data on split liver transplants from the 18 month Acuity Circles report and the 12 month Region 8 split liver variance report. The Region 8 variance will expire on December 3, 2022 and the Committee will need to decide if it should be extended, terminated, or moved into permanent policy. A member voiced support for combining the Region 8 and open variance to simplify the split liver allocation policy. Another member suggested that in order to understand the variance's potential impact, it should be expanded to the national level. Another member pointed out that the variance had not impacted the number of splits in Region 8, but that the Committee should consider the reasons for this and what could be done to increase splits. A member also suggested reevaluating criteria for splits.

A member mentioned the need for more standard practice when procuring an organ for research purposes, as sometimes these organs do not arrive at their destination in acceptable condition. Members suggested this project may be of interest to the Organ Procurement Organizations (OPO) Committee.

Next steps:

The Committee will further consider these potential projects during a future meeting.

2. Continuous Distribution: Identification and Categorization of Attributes

The Committee discussed the current aspects of liver and intestine allocation and begin to categorize them into different goals.

Summary of discussion:

A member suggested that the Committee could consider including size matching as an attribute for liver continuous distribution. A member commented that the Committee would also need to consider how to sort candidates with exceptions more accurately, as many HCC candidates currently have the same score. Another member suggested the Committee should consider body surface area (BSA) algorithms as a method for addressing size matching. A member also mentioned population density as an important factor.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue discussions on identification of attributes for liver continuous distribution.

Upcoming Meeting

- February 4, 2022 @ 3:00PM ET

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Alan Gunderson
 - Allison Kwong
 - Sumeet Asrani
 - Bailey Heiting
 - Diane Alonso
 - Greg McKenna
 - James Eason
 - Jennifer Kerney
 - Jim Markmann
 - Jorge Reyes
 - Kym Watt
 - Mark Orloff
 - James Pomposelli
 - Scott Biggins
 - Sophoclis Alexopoulos
 - Kimberly Brown
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
 - John Lake
 - Katie Audette
 - Tim Weaver
 - Nicholas Wood
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Alison Wilhelm
 - Betsy Gans
 - Darren Stewart
 - Jason Livingston
 - Jennifer Musick
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Kelley Poff
 - Joel Newman
 - Leah Slife
 - Liz Robbins
 - Niyati Upadhyay