

Better Than Dialysis: Putting Patients First to Maximize Kidney Transplantation





- How to Reduce to Reduce the Kidney Discard Rate and Utilize Medically Complex Donors
 - Enver Akalin, MD, Montefiore Medical Center
- Digitally Transforming Transplantation to Optimize Kidney Acceptance
 - Joseph R. Scalea, MD, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
- Development of a Dedicated Transplant Call Team
 - Heather Wertin, MPH, BSN, RN, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, MO



How to Reduce to Reduce the Kidney Discard Rate and Utilize Medically Complex Donors

Enver Akalin, MD

Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY Professor of Medicine and Surgery Medical Director, Kidney Transplant Program







- Kidney Transplant program activity and clinical outcomes at Montefiore Medical Center
- Utilization of high KDPI organs and organs from donors over 60-year-old
- Utilization of DCD donors



Montefiore Kidney Transplant Program

Kidney transplants performed since 2007



Table C7D. Adult (18+) 1-year survival with a functioning deceased donor graft Single organ transplants performed between 07/01/2019 and 03/12/2020, and 06/13/2020 and 12/31/2021 Deaths and retransplants are considered graft failures Follow up or do an 2/(2/2020 for requirements the result of prior to 2/(2/2020)

Follow-up ends on 3/12/2020 for recipients transplanted prior to 3/13/2020

	NYMA	U.S.
Number of transplants evaluated	208	37,045
Estimated probability of surviving with a functioning graft at 1 year (unadjusted for patient and donor characteristics)	95.08%	92.61%
Expected probability of surviving with a functioning graft at 1 year (adjusted for patient and donor characteristics)	91.58%	



Figure C6D. Adult (18+) 1-year deceased donor graft failure HR program comparison







How did we increase transplant numbers?

Recipient related factors:

- Multiorgan transplant (kidney/pancreas, kidney/liver, kidney/heart, kidney/lung)
- Kidney transplantation in sensitized patients with donorspecific antibodies
- A2-incompatible kidney transplantation

<u>Clinical assessment of deceaseddonors:</u>

- Donors with high Kidney Donor Profile Index (KDPI)
- Donation after cardiac death (DCD)
- Donors with acute kidney injury
- PHS-high risk kidneys (HCV positive donors into HCV negative recipients)





Discard rates overtime in the USA



FIGURE 6. Trends in the 5 most common OPO-recorded discard reasons, 1996 to 2015. *Biopsy findings* has been the most frequently cited reason for kidney discard for 20 years, currently accounting for one third of discards. The second most common reason—*no recipient located/list exhausted*, indicating the OPO attempted but could not find an accepting transplant hospital—has risen sharply from under 10% in 2007 to 29.7% in 2015.



Stewart et al. Transplantation 2017, 101:575



Comparing graft survival per KDPI to dialysis



Quality 2023 Conference Building Resilient Communities: Having an Equitable Foundation for Quality Healthcare Cumulative incidence of combined mortality and wait-list removal or deceased donor transplantation for candidates aged 65+ by donor age and KDPI



(Schold J et al. Kid Int, 2022, 102:640)



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Assessment of deceased-donor organs at Montefiore Medical Center

- Offers are initially reviewed by coordinators
- If there is no absolute decline criteria, offers are reviewed by a transplant surgeon
- If surgeon agrees to accept the organ, offer is reviewed by a transplant nephrologist
- Recipient candidates are reviewed by the coordinators and transplant nephrologist

- Data coordinator send a list of patients who would be a candidate for medically complex kidneys
 - Patients over age of 60
 - On the waiting list less than 2 years





Increased transplant rate in older patients and sensitized patients at Montefiore

- Increased transplant rate in older recipients using medically complex kidneys (older donors, higher KDPI and DCD donors)
- Increased transplantation in highly sensitized patients with or without donor specific anti-HLA antibodies

Table B8. Percent of candidates with deceased donor transplants: demographic characteristics Candidates registered on the waiting list between 07/01/2016 and 06/30/2019

Characteristic		Percent transplanted at time periods since listing This Center United States									
	N	30 day	1 year 2	years 3 ye	ars N	30 day	1 year 2 ye	ears 3 ye	ars		
65-69 years		144	4.2	18.8	25.7	30.6	13,349	4.4	17.8	24.7	29.8
70+ years		69	7.2	37.7	40.6	49.3	6,884	4.4	20.0	26.8	31.4
Peak PRA/CPRA											
0-9%		872	3.7	14.2	18.8	24.1	77,957	4.8	18.5	25.6	31.5
10-79%		47	14.9	27.7	40.4	48.9	12,581	3.8	18.2	26.1	32.0
80+%		27	0.0	29.6	51.9	59.3	8,423	3.1	26.2	36.2	42.0





Utilization of DCD kidneys at Montefiore Medical Center







Digitally Transforming Transplantation to Optimize Kidney Acceptance at MUSC

Joseph R. Scalea, MD

Director of Kidney Transplantation and Transplant Quality, Vice Chair of Innovation and Commercialization Professor of Surgery Medical University of South Carolina





Approach to Quality in the Context of High Volumes: The MUSC Approach



Deceased Donors Adult	#	90-Day Graft Failure	90-Day Survival
All Comers	606	19	96.86%
Dual Kidneys	0	0	N/A
DCD	162	7	95.68%
High KDPI	21	3	85.71%
AKI (Donor Creat >3)	58	4	93.10%
Deceased Donors Adult	#	1 Year Conditional Graft Failure	1 Year Conditional Survival
All Comers	533	16	97.00%
Dual Kidneys	0	0	N/A
DCD	136	4	97.06%
High KDPI	13	2	84.62%





Digital Transformation

Not just digitization

Digitization + Transformation

End result is better than pretransformation and delivers a <u>sustainable</u> value-add







Digital Transformation Map for Transplant



Having an Equitable Foundation for Quality Healthcare

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Process 1: Process towards transformation



Having an Equitable Foundation for Quality Healthcare

Process 2: MOCA



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Processes 3, 4

- 3. Recipient screen
- 4. Organ acceptance
- Not yet built
- Could integrate with national systems (UNOS)





Process 5: Organ Transplant Logistics, Problems and Solutions

- It takes 457 minutes for a single organ to be accepted
- There is no transparency in organ shipment
- Average CIT is 19 hours and the longest flight in the USA is 5 hours
- Organ flights have been called "riskiest job in medicine"







Process 5: Fully functional: Tracking, Monitoring, Data Capture







Process 6: OR leveling, Summer 2022

- Unmet need: Hospitals have limited OR resources, but transplants are reactively scheduled. Thus, OR's need as much information as possible about organ timing to prepare for surgery
- Current limitations: OR's do not accept organs, and are thus not privy to OR time sensitivity of individual organs or cases
- Solution: Protocolization and digitization of organ quality informed leveling, in partnership with the OR







Process 6: What the protocol looks like

1. Level 1B:

- a. All kidneys with >24 hours of CIT once organ/patient are in the hospital
- b. High risk organs at with >18 hours CIT:
 - i. DCD kidneys
 - ii. High KDPI (>85%)
 - iii.AKI (creatinine >3 mg/dL)
- 2. Level 2:
 - a. High risk organs at with >12 hours CIT:
 - i. DCD kidneys
 - ii. High KDPI (>85%)
 - iii.AKI (creatinine >3 mg/dL)
 - b. All kidneys >18 hours CIT once organ/patient are in the hospital

3. Level 3:

a. All remaining organs (standard criteria with <18 hours CIT, or high risk <12 hours)





Process 7: Chart Abstraction for Post-Transplant Management

- Can we automate chart review and patient contact?
- Automated chart abstraction
- Rank order listing for at-risk patients
- First version available for testing Fall 2022!







Process 7: Chart abstraction: Unmet needs

Scalea et al. *In Submission*

Time that providers spend reviewing protocoled data each week











- Julie Anderson
- Daniel Stanton
- Derek DuBay, MD
- P. Baliga, MD



Development of a Dedicated Transplant Call Team

Heather Wertin, MPH, BSN, RN

Program Manager, Abdominal Organ Transplant Barnes-Jewish Hospital St. Louis, MO





- Purpose of a call team
- Team development
- Year one results
- Future objectives



Purpose of a Call Team: Reason for Action



*Includes 2 months pre- and 1 month post- allocation changes

- Disruption of patient care due to on-call responsibilities
- Coordinator burnout
- Surgeon capacity
- Inconsistencies in on-call process across organ groups





ETCLC Focus

Aim 1

What

Increase deceased donor organ transplant through creation of an 'organ package'

How

Create dedicated call team and streamline organ offer process







Develop Dedicated Call TeamKey Deliverables

Donor Organ Evaluation Process

Organ Offer Tracking Tool

Standardized Communication

Scripting of Offer Types



Creation of Organ Package

A Tool for Efficient Review of Kidney Offers



 All information is provided by the call team to the surgeon to facilitate making the best decision in the most efficient way.

• Instead of 50+ texts messages to the surgical team, there is 1 phone call.





Use of Non-Clinical Team Members for Import Offers

 Model proven successful by our local OPO
Nursing shortage- no problem!
Reduced operational costs
Connected our non-clinical team members to the mission of our transplant center
Illustrated the value of the work performed in primary roles







Results

Kidney offer acceptance increased by 7.7% within the first months of organ package roll-out







Results

11% increase in transplant volume in 2022



10 out of 10 transplant surgeons approve!

Increase in regulatory compliance



Results Financial Assessment

Projected Costs

 \$343k increase in staff cost after Medicare reimbursement
Difficult to assess lost productivity

costs of previous

state

Financial Gains (increase of 32 transplants) Net increase of \$1.1mil in contribution margin

- Covered cost of the team
- > \$750K additional in gross contribution margins





Future Objectives

Refine Process

- Review acceptance practices and declines
- Incorporate offer filters
- Cross train team members

Add Affiliated Program

- Additional FTEs
- Program-specific training

Opportunities

- Partner with OPOs for expedited placement
- OPTN Offer Acceptance Collaborative
- 400 kidneys by 2026!!





Meet Our Team



Team Members: Heather Wertin, Gregory Richardson*, Martha Stipsits, Casey Rowe, Dr. Jason Wellen, Mary Meyers, Jessica Wagner*, Eryn Simmons, Tanya Barron, Craig Cole*, Tayneesha Tate*, Jessica Bailey*, Fadra Coates*, Rita Gersman*, Trisha Grannemann, Cara Doering, Shalma Humphrey, Sydney Critchfield, Nancy Culiberk, JoAnn Bier*, Michele Rhoades*, Mary Moran*, Annie Klingler*, Richard Rothweiler*, Lindsey Speir*, Meranda Scherer, Donna Phelan*, Chang Liu*





Questions?



