

WHY ORGANS ARE DISCARDED – AN ANALYSIS OF REASONS FOR REJECTING OFFERED PANCREATA

Background: There is a high rate of discrepancy between offered and actually transplanted pancreata in organ allocation. Thorough analysis should shed light on the reasons for high non-utilization.

Methods: We analysed the allocation protocols of all Eurotransplant (ET)-registered German whole pancreas donors offered to allocation in the period 2005-2009 (n=1769). Several reasons for rejection have been analysed in detail and categorized according to their relevance for rejecting the organ for transplantation.

Results: 1113 (63%) of all offered pancreata were not transplanted. Of those, 239 pancreata were withdrawn from the allocation process following surgical inspection of the organ at the time of intended recovery. 128 were accepted, but not used due to recipient-related reasons (n=65), or because the organs were damaged or had anatomic abnormalities that precluded transplantation (n=63). In 738 cases the pancreata were offered to different centres, but repeatedly rejected and finally not transplanted. The reasons for rejecting an offer often differed between centres; a mean of 1,75 different turn-down causes was given for each rejected pancreas. The most frequent reasons were 'long ICU stay' (named for 176 organs), 'resuscitation' (n=131), 'age' (n=62) and 'unfavourable lab results' (n=456). Among the 293 organs with favourable P-PASS (< 15) and donor age (<30 years), 39% were discarded.

Discussion: The results enable better understanding of rejection reasons during the allocation process. Further studies are currently underway that attempt to analyse in detail the reasons for rejecting the offered organs, especially those with a favourable P-PASS.

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