# Using HCV Viraemic Organs for HCV Negative Recipients

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Chairman of the British Viral Hepatitis Group
BTS Annual Congress
Brighton 2018



## **Outline of Talk**

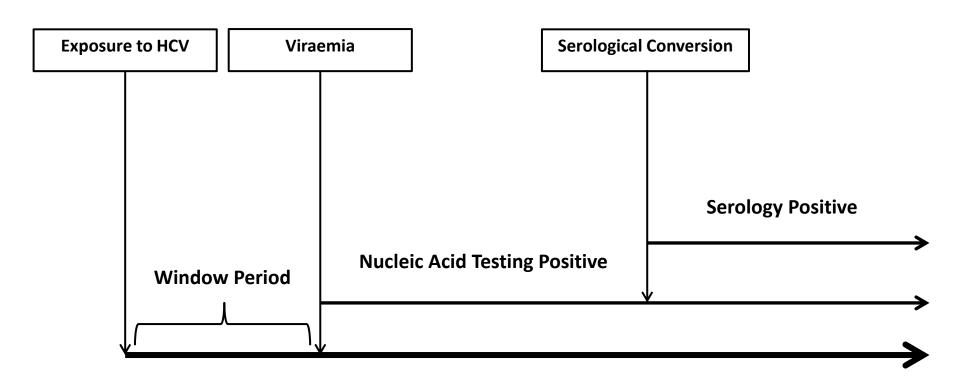
- Which donors are we talking about?
- Why is it time to move on?
- What is the evidence that this approach is safe?
- What are the dangers of adopting a new approach?
- National Position Statement launching today
- Next Steps



## **Increased Infectious Risk Donors**

- Known HCV viraemic patients
- Recent intravenous drug use
- Commercial sex workers
- Individuals engaged in unprotected anal intercourse with multiple partners
- Untested sexual partners of individuals known to be infected with HBV/HCV/HIV
- Incarcerated in last 12 months
- Non-sterile tattooing or piercing in last 12 months

# **HCV Virology and Serology**



TIME

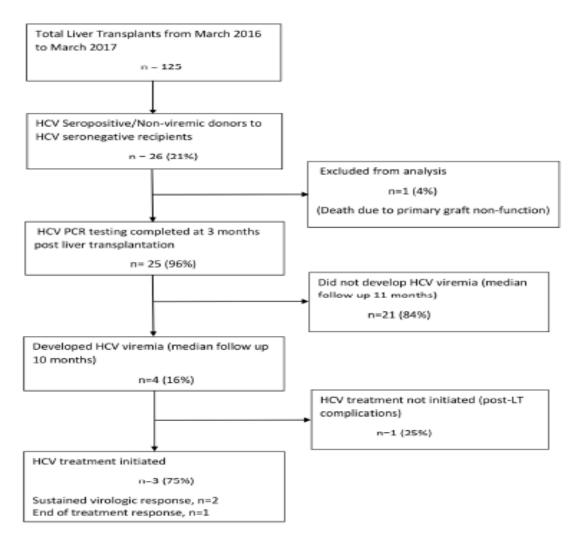
## **Nomenclature Definition**

- Essentially talking about known HCV viraemic donors or those with the potential to be
- Literature is poor at differentiating antibody and PCR positive donors
- Best to consider all increased infectious disease risk donors and HCV Ab positive donors as potentially viraemic

### Hepatitis C Transmission from Seropositive, Non-Viremic Donors to Non-

### **Hepatitis C Liver Transplant Recipients**

Khurram Bari, MD; barikm@ucmail.uc.edu; no conflicts of interest

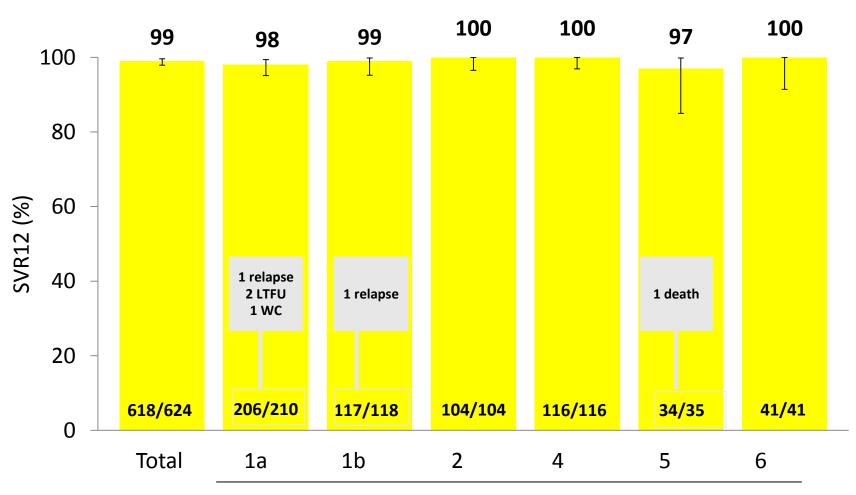


# Why is it time to move on?

### **Numerous Reasons**

- The number of HCV viraemic transplant recipients is falling
- HCV positive donor organ discard rates are unacceptably high – reversing this is both <u>life and</u> <u>cost-saving</u>
- There is some evidence that drug overdose related deaths are on the increase in England
- Modern DAA therapy will allow us to cure virtually everyone post-transplant
- We already intentionally infect patients with viruses if the risk benefit-ratio is right – CMV is a prime example

# ASTRAL-1: SOF/VEL for 12 Weeks in GT 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 HCV-Infected Patients



LTFU=lost to follow up; WC=withdrew consent

Genotype

### Recent UK Wide Data

- Analysis by NHSBT of donors from 2000 to 2015
- 244 HCV +ve donors identified
- Only 65 (27%) provided organs for 93 recipients (63 livers and 30 other organs)
- Organs from 146 HCV +ve consented organs were declined with 71.4% being because of positive virology
- The median eGFR of declined HCV+ve donors was 103 ml/min/m2 (IQR 70-144)
- 49% had a UK donor risk index score of <1.02, suggesting at least 77% of potential transplanted kidneys from such donors would be functioning at 5 years
- Transplanting D+ kidneys into R- recipients was estimated to be cost neutral with dialysis after 4 years of transplant

# We are already behind the curve

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Meeting Report

# The American Society of Transplantation Consensus Conference on the Use of Hepatitis C Viremic Donors in Solid Organ Transplantation

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J. Levitsky<sup>1,*,†</sup>, R. N. Formica<sup>2,†</sup>, R. D. Bloom<sup>3</sup>, M. Charlton<sup>4</sup>, M. Curry<sup>5</sup>, J. Friedewald<sup>1</sup>, J. Friedman<sup>6</sup>, D. Goldberg<sup>3</sup>, S. Hall<sup>7</sup>, M. Ison<sup>1</sup>, T. Kaiser<sup>8</sup>, D. Klassen<sup>9</sup>, G. Klintmalm<sup>7</sup>, J. Kobashigawa<sup>10</sup>, A. Liapakis<sup>2</sup>, K. O'Conner<sup>11</sup>, P. Reese<sup>3</sup>, D. Stewart<sup>9</sup>, N. Terrault<sup>12</sup>, N. Theodoropoulos<sup>13</sup>, J. Trotter<sup>7</sup>, E. Verna<sup>14</sup> and M. Volk<sup>15</sup>
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need for scientific study and consensus, the American Society of Transplantation convened a meeting of experts to review current data and develop the framework for the study of using HCV viremic organs in solid organ transplantation.

Abbreviations: CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; ChLIA, chemiluminescence assay; CKD, chronic kidney disease; DAA, direct-acting antiviral agent; EIA, enzyme immunoassay; ESRD, end-stage repal disease; EDA, Food and Drug Administration;

## **SaBTO Guidelines**

Test result(s)	Organs	Tissues	HSPC, TC and	Gametes and
suggesting			Human	embryos
possible donor			embryonic stem	
HCV infection			cells	

1.1.6 HCV infection in the potential donor does not amount to an absolute contra-indication to donation of material for life-preserving transplantation, however the net benefit of transplantation must be considered against the risk of not receiving that specific transplant. This risk/benefit analysis allows for the potential use of a transplant from a HCV infected donor to a non-infected recipient.

<sup>\*</sup> EUTCD prohibits donation from individuals with a "history, clinical evidence, or laboratory evidence of HIV, acute or chronic hepatitis B (except in the case of persons with a proven immune status), hepatitis C and HTLV I/II, transmission risk or evidence of risk factors for these infections."

<sup>\*\*</sup>EUTCD prohibits non-partner donation of gametes and embryos if Anti-HCV antibody is positive

# **Cost equation**

- The annual cost of haemodialysis is c.£30,000
- The annual cost of a renal transplant (after the first year) is c.£5,000
- Therefore, each extra year of dialysis costs £25,000
  - For highly sensitized patients the cost may reach £250,000.
- More importantly these patients face the prospect of being consigned for many years on dialysis, with poor QoL, limited ability to work or travel, and a considerable risk of death on dialysis.
- Opening up a pool of HCV (+) kidneys, that would otherwise be discarded, specifically to patients who would otherwise have a high mortality will offers such patients significantly improved health outcomes

# What is the evidence that this approach is safe?

#### CORRESPONDENCE

## Trial of Transplantation of HCV-Infected Kidneys into Uninfected Recipients

- >500 kidneys with HCV discarded annually in US
- Open label, single group pilot trial THINKER trial at U Penn (n=10)
- Geno 1 +RNA,
- Post-transplantation elbasvir-grazoprevir
- Inclusion: HD, predicted long wait time
- Exclusion: Condition increasing likelihood of liver disease
- IS: Steroids, ATG
- HCV RNA day 3
  - once positive 12 weeks elbasvir-grazoprevir

#### CORRESPONDENCE

## Trial of Transplantation of HCV-Infected Kidneys into Uninfected Recipients

- Median age 59, M:F 1:1, 2 black
- Median wait for HCV + organ 58 days
- HCV RNA detectable in all on day 3, 9 Geno 1a, none NS5A RAS
- SVR12 100%
- Median eGFR 68ml/min (51-83)
- Complications: Delayed graft function (n=1), elevated ALT (n=2), transient class I DSA (n=1), proteinuria & FSGS (n=1)
- Overall: Excellent allograft function

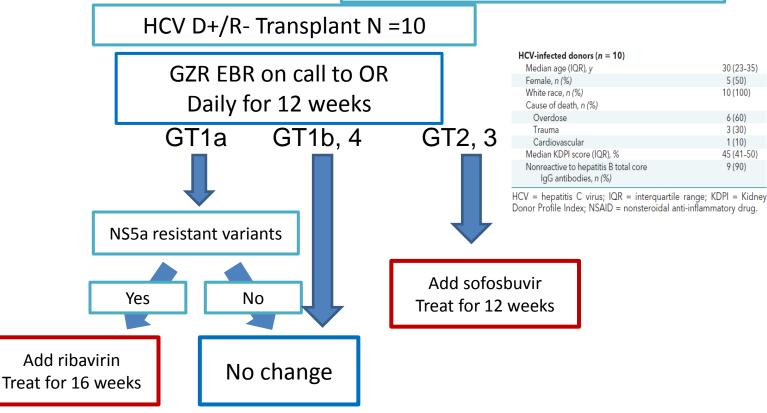
# **EXPANDER-1: Exploring Renal Transplants Using Hepatitis-C Infected Donors for HCV-Negative Recipients**

### **HCV- Participant Inclusion Criteria**

- On deceased donor transplant waitlist at JHU
- •On dialysis or GFR < 15 ml/min
- •≥ 50 years old
- •HCV-

### **HCV+ Donor Inclusion Criteria**

- Age 13-50
- Creatinine < 3.0 mg/dL, normal renal biopsy
- Qualitative HCV NAT+, UNOS screening test
- HCV genotype sent to commercial lab



## **EXPANDER-1** Results

Table 2. Donor HCV Characteristics and Recipient HCV Status After Transplant

Donor-Recipient Pair	Genotype	De	onor				Recipient			
raii	HCV RNA Level, <i>IU/n</i>			HCV RNA Level, IU/mL			HCV Antibody Status at FW12	Positive PPs, n		
		Level, 10/111L		POD1	TW1	TW12	FW12	Status at FW12	Baseline	FW8
1	ND*	467	Positive	<15	<15	<15	<15	Negative	0	0
2	ND*	104	Positive	<15	<15	<15	<15	Positive	0	0
3†	ND*	<15‡	Positive	<15	<15	<15	<15	Negative	2	1
4	1a/3	46 733	Positive	<15‡	<15	<15	<15	Negative	0	0
5†	1a	62 400	Positive	<15	<15	<15	<15	Positive	4	8
6	1a	4 645 289	Positive	94	<15	<15	<15	Negative	1	0
7	3	2 090 042	Positive	<15‡	<15	<15	<15	Positive	0	0
8	2	1 760 000	Positive	136	55	<15	<15	Positive	5	2
9	ND	131	Positive	<15	<15	<15	<15	Negative	3	6
10	1a	1 140 000	Positive	32	<15	<15	<15	Positive	1	2

FW = follow-up week; HCV = hepatitis C virus; ND = not determined; POD = postoperative day; PP = peptide pool; TW = treatment week.

<sup>\*</sup> Because of insufficient viral RNA.

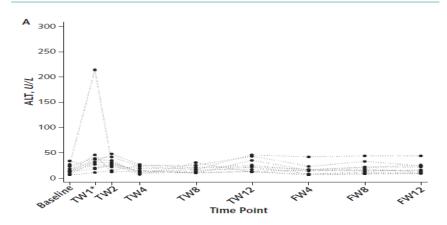
<sup>†</sup> The donor received substantial blood products, and the specimen being tested may have been hemodiluted.

<sup>‡</sup> The target was detected but not quantifiable.

## **EXPANDER-1 Safety**

*Figure 2.* Posttransplantation liver function tests in non-HCV-infected recipients of kidneys from HCV-infected donors.





Donor-Recipient Pair	1 Month	2 Months	3 Months	6 Months
1	0.38	0.27	0.17	0.07
2	0.15	0.09	0.14	0.11
3	0.26	0.67	0.37	0.22
4	0.12	0.11	0.1	0.13
5	0.14	0.12	0.09	0.11
6	0.29	0.2	0.18	0.17
7	0.28	0.24	0.14	0.08
8	Dipstick 1+	Dipstick 1+	Dipstick 1+	0.09
9	Dipstick 0	0.17	0.13	0.11
10	0.29	0.21	0.36	0.23

### Appendix Table 1. Donor Biopsy Findings

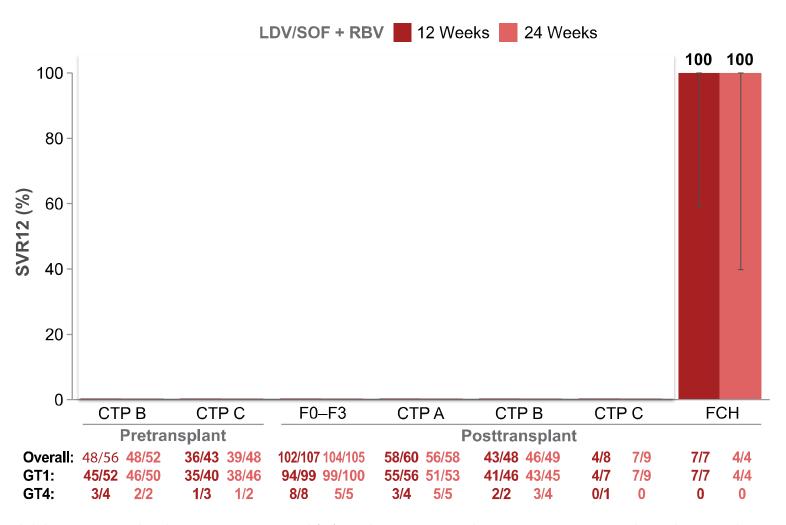
Donor	Biopsy Finding
1	4% glomerulosclerosis, no arterial hyalinosis, minimal arterial sclerosis, minimal interstitial fibrosis and inflammation
2	4% glomerulosclerosis, minimal arterial hyalinosis, no arterial sclerosis, minimal interstitial fibrosis and inflammation, focal cortical scar
3	No glomerulosclerosis, minimal arterial hyalinosis, minimal arterial sclerosis, minimal interstitial fibrosis, no interstitial inflammation, no cortical scar
4	No glomerulosclerosis, minimal arterial hyalinosis, minimal arterial sclerosis, minimal interstitial fibrosis, no interstitial inflammation, no cortical scar
5	No glomerulosclerosis, no arterial hyalinosis, no arterial sclerosis, mild focal interstitial fibrosis and interstitial inflammation, no cortical scar
6	No glomerulosclerosis, no arterial hyalinosis, no arterial sclerosis, no interstitial fibrosis, no interstitial inflammation
7	No glomerulosclerosis, no arterial hyalinosis, no arterial sclerosis, mild interstitial fibrosis, no interstitial inflammation, no cortical scar
8	No glomerulosclerosis, no arterial hyalinosis, no arterial sclerosis, no interstitial fibrosis, no interstitial inflammation, no cortical scar
9	No glomerulosclerosis, no arterial hyalinosis, no arterial sclerosis, no interstitial fibrosis, mild interstitial inflammation, focal cortical scar
10	No glomerulosclerosis, no arterial hyalinosis, no arterial sclerosis, no interstitial fibrosis, no interstitial inflammation

# What are the dangers of adopting a new approach?

# **Potential Dangers**

- Fibrosing cholestatic hepatitis
- Treatment failure post transplant with development of difficult to treat RAS – choice and length of regimen should mitigate this
- Extra-hepatic manifestations of HCV such as cryoglobulinaemic vasculitis or potential increased rates in blood derived malignancy such as PTLD- can be mitigated by curative treatment
- Sexual transmission of HCV to a partner can be mitigated by simple lifestyle advice
- Transmission of HBV and HIV risk very low and there is a lot of experience of management of these viruses post-transplant with excellent results

# **Efficacy of DAAs in FCH**



Analysis excluded 13 patients transplanted prior to posttreatment Week (FU) 12 with HCV RNA <LLOQ at last measurement prior to transplant, and 3 pretransplant patients who were CTP A at baseline. *Error bars* represent 95% confidence intervals (CIs).

## **Transmission of Other Viruses**

**Transplant International** 

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Organ transplantation from "increased infectious risk donors": the experience of the Nord Italia Transplant program — A retrospective study

Paolo Antonio Grossi<sup>1</sup> (6), Daniela Dalla Gasperina<sup>1</sup> (6), Domenico Lombardi<sup>1</sup>, Andrea Ricci<sup>2</sup>, Giuseppe Piccolo<sup>3</sup> & Alessandro Nanni Costa<sup>2</sup>

Transplant International 2018; 31: 212–219

**Table 1.** Organs offered and refusal reasons according to the type of organ

				Refusal reasons		
Type of organ offered	Number of organs offered	Number of organs accepted	Number of organs refused	IRD-related reasons	Poor quality of organs	Other factors
Kidney	150	89 (59.3%)	61 (40.7%)	48 (78.7%)	11 (18%)	2 (3.3%)
Lung	86	14 (16.3%)	72 (83.7%)	28 (38.9%)	40 (55.6%)	4 (5.6%)
Heart	65	36 (55.4%)	29 (44.6%)	11 (37.9%)	18 (62.1%)	_
Liver	59	43 (72.9%)	16 (27.1%)	2 (12.5%)	13 (81.3%)	1 (6.3%)
Pancreas	18	3 (16.7%)	15 (83.3%)	7 (46.7%)	6 (40%)	2 (13.3%)
Pancreatic islets	1	-	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	_	_
Total	379	185 (48.8%)	194 (51.2%)	97 (50%)	88 (45.4%)	9 (4.6%)

- 174 organs from IIRD donors transplanted
- FU data on 152 recipients
- No cases of transmission of HBV, HIV or syphillis
- 2 cases of transmission of HCV from known HCV viraemic donors

## **UK National Position Statement**

# Working Group for the UK Position Statement

### **List of Stakeholders**

- British Viral Hepatitis Group (Lead)
- Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs
- British Association for the Study of Liver Disease
- British Liver Transplant Group
- British Transplantation Society
- Clinical Virology Network
- National Health Service Blood and Transplant
- National Health Service Scotland
- National Health Service Wales
- Operational Delivery Networks for HCV in England
- Skipton Fund (Special Category Mechanism)
- Renal Association

# Members of the Working Group

Ahmed Elsharkawy (Chair) James Neuberger

Will Gelson **Graham Foster** 

Mary Cannon Lynne Vernon

Mark Harber Sarah Matthew

Rachel Hilton William Irving

Colin Wilson Andy Bathgate

Varuna Aluvihare **Graham Lipkin** 

Chris Callaghan **Brendan Healey** 

Stephen Large Geoff Dusheiko

Pedro Catarino Chris Watson

Kosh Agarwal Thamara Perera

Moira Perrin

Matthew Cramp

Derek Manas

Alice Workman

John Forysthe

# **The Final Report**





UK Position Statement on the use of Organs from Hepatitis C Viraemic Donors and Increased Infectious Risk Donors in Hepatitis C Negative Recipients









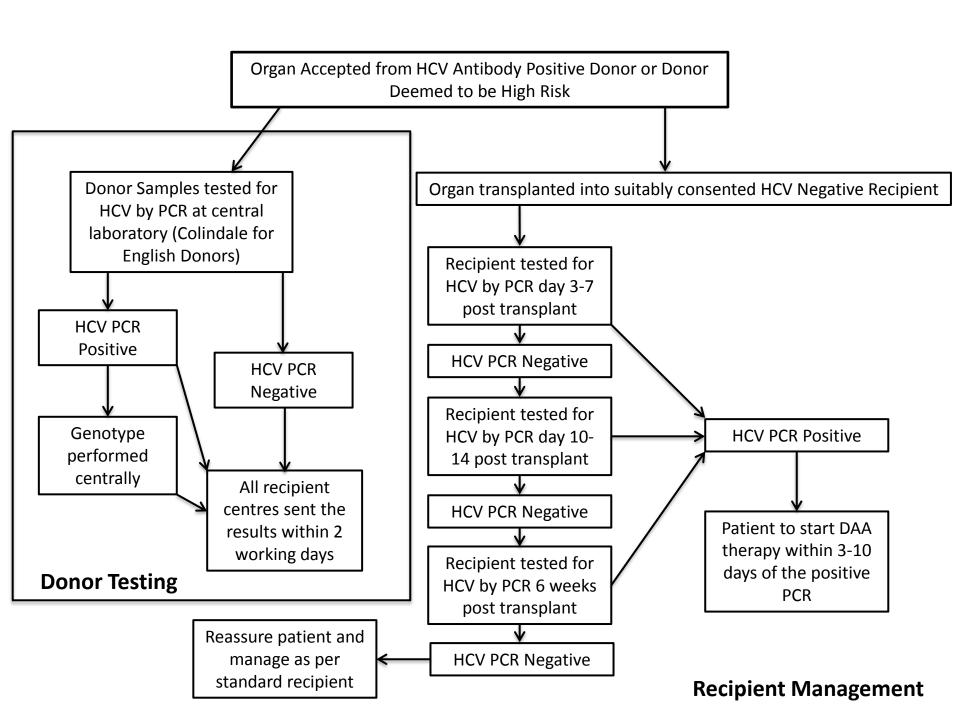
#### Contents

List of Stakeholders.....

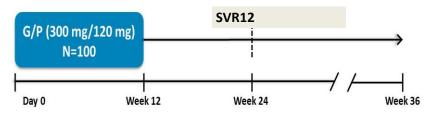
Executive Summary	
Introduction	
Introduction to HCV and Clarification of Nomenclature	
Changes in the treatment of hepatitis C over the past five years	
Current discard rates for hepatitis C positive donor organs in the UK	1
Experience from outside the UK	1
Why HCV D+ to R- transplantation should be cost effective	1
What are the risks of HCV D+ to R- transplantation?	1
The Practicalities of Implementing this Policy in the United Kingdom	1
Patient Consent	1
Patient and Unit Requirements Pre-Transplant	1
Allocation of HCV D+ Organs on the Waiting List	1
Management of the Recipient of a HCV D+ Organ	1
Special Additional Considerations	2
Oversight of the Programme in its Early Days	2
Next Steps in the Process	2
References	2
Appendix 1 - Patient Information Leaflet for the Use of Hepatitis C Infected Organs in Hepatitis C	
Negative Recipients	2
Introduction	
What is hepatitis C?	
Why am I being offered a hepatitis C infected (insert organ here)?	
What are the advantages to me of receiving a hepatitis C infected (insert organ here)?	2
What are the risks to me if I receive a hepatitis C infected (insert organ here)?	2
What is the experience of patients who have been infected with hepatitis C at the time of an	
organ transplant?	2
How do I know that the hepatitis C infected (insert organ here) has not been damaged by the virus?	2
What are the risks to my family if I receive a hepatitis C Infected (insert organ here)?	2
How will I be treated if I receive a hepatitis C infected (insert organ here)?	2
What happens to me if I refuse to accept a hepatitis C infected (insert organ here)?	3
Will I be entitled to compensation if I accept a hepatitis C infected (insert organ here)?	3
Where can I find out more information?	3

# **Donor Acceptability**

Acceptable Within Proposed Policy	Not Recommended Within
	Proposed Policy
HCV Ab positive with no history of treatment of	Previously failed DAA therapy with on-going
HCV	viraemia
HCV Ab positive with documented SVR after	DAA therapy within last year without
treatment	documented SVR (unless the recipient is at
	imminent risk of death)
Any HCV Ab negative donor who has exposed	Multiple documented re-infection with HCV
themselves to risk but who does not fulfill any	
of the unacceptable criteria	
Any HCV Ab positive donor whose HCV	
treatment history is unknown – proceed with	
caution	



### **MAGELLAN-2** Trial



**Baseline:**  $\geq$ 3 Months since: Liver Transplant (n = 80), Renal

Transplant (n = 20)

<u>GT</u>: 1 (57%), 2 (13%), 3 (24%), 4–6 (6%) <u>Fibrosis:</u> F0–1 (80%), F2 (6%), F3 (14%)

Treatment naïve (66%) or experienced\* (SOF±pegIFN±RBV) (34%)

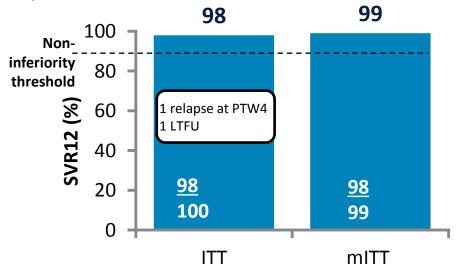
Excluded: Coinfection HBV or HIV

ALT/AST >10 × ULN, albumin <3.5 g/dL, platelets <70,000, CrCl

<30 mL/min

Acute renal failure / re-transplant / dual transplant

Experience with DAA other than SOF



#### **BL** immunosuppressant medication:

tacrolimus (68%), mycophenolic acid (30%), cyclosporine (13%), prednisone (13%), prednisolone (11%), everolimus (8%), azathioprine (6%), and sirolimus (7%)

Safety, n/%	G/P, 12 weeks N = 100
SAE	8
DAA-related SAEs*	2
AE leading to study drug discontinuation†	1
DAA-related AE leading to study drug discontinuation	0
Death	0
Transplant rejection	1

Patient with mild liver transplant rejection was considered unrelated to DDIs and did not lead to treatment interruption

Grade 3 laboratory abnormalities were rare

### **Patient Consent Form**

Appendix 1 - Patient Information Leaflet for the Use of Hepatitis C Infected Organs in Hepatitis C Negative Recipients

#### Introduction

You are being asked to consider whether or not you would accept a (insert organ here) from a hepatitis C virus infected donor. This leaflet will explain why this option is being considered for you, and will explain the potential benefits and the potential risks that this may involve. It is important to emphasise that it is your choice whether or not you agree to accept a (insert organ here) from a hepatitis C virus infected donor.

#### What is hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a virus that is transmitted in infected blood and body fluids. It lives in the liver and blood of infected individuals and can cause inflammation and scarring of the liver. The scarring can be severe, although on average it takes 30 years for the scarring to become life-threatening in non-transplant patients. Severe scarring may develop more rapidly in transplant patients taking drugs that suppress the immune system.

Treatments for hepatitis C have changed greatly over recent years. It is now possible to cure over 95% of patients who are infected with the hepatitis C virus. Treatment requires taking tablets for 12 weeks. Once the virus is cleared it does not come back and does not affect your long term health.

### What are the advantages to me of receiving a hepatitis C infected (insert organ here)?

If you agree to accept a (insert organ here) from a hepatitis C virus infected donor, you may receive a transplant more quickly. This may be very helpful if you would otherwise wait a very long time for a transplant. Also, because organ donors who are infected with hepatitis C virus are younger than average, and less likely to have other important health issues, their organs may be of higher quality and therefore more likely to work immediately and may last longer.

### What are the risks to me if I receive a hepatitis C infected (insert organ here)?

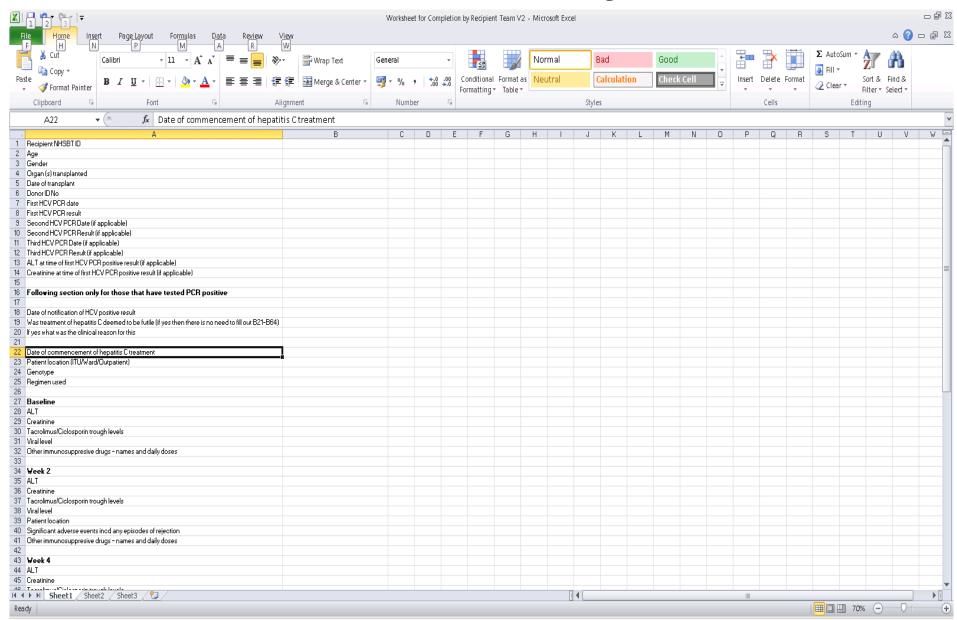
The main risk of accepting a (insert organ here) from a hepatitis C virus infected donor is that you will become infected with the virus yourself. If hepatitis C virus infection is not treated you may become jaundiced (yellow) and may develop severe inflammation in the liver (fulminant cholestatic hepatitis). In the longer term (3-6 months) hepatitis C may result in kidney injury. However, you will be offered treatment to cure you of the hepatitis C virus as soon as is has been confirmed that you have been infected. This will minimise the risk of any damage to you.

## **Checklist for Individual Units**

	Yes	No
Recipient Specific		
Are you able to calculate APRI scores in your unit (requires		
measurement of AST and platelet count)?		
Are you able to perform high quality liver ultrasounds on potential		
recipients?		
Does your organisation have a specific consent form for		
transplantation and if so does it need to be modified to include		
transplantation of a HCV positive organ?		
Is there a plan to consent your recipients ahead of transplantation?		
Pharmacy Issues		
Does your pharmacy know how to order the HCV DAA drugs and		
how they get rebated for this?		
Do the HCV drugs need to be on your formulary prior to prescribing?		
If yes, have they been added to the formulary?		
Is your pharmacy able to get the drugs within the time frames		
outlined within the position statement?		
Will the whole treatment course be supplied by the transplant unit		
pharmacy if the patient is repatriated back to the referring centre early?		
If no have arrangements been made for continuous supply to be		
provided to the recipient for the duration of the course?		
Does your Trust have access to Blueteq in order to apply for		
approval of DAAs (England only)?		
Personnel Issues		
Has a lead clinician for this service development been identified?		
If this individual has not got personal experience of the		
management of hepatitis C has he/she got easy access to clinicians		
that do for advice on individual cases?		
Has the clinical lead provided training to your transplant co-		
ordinators, pharmacy, transplant surgeons, junior doctors and		
transplant physicians on this proposed service development?		

Does the wider team have a grasp of the following concepts	
Blood tests to be performed post-transplantation	
2. Referral pathway to local HCV MDT	
3. Treatment regimens for HCV that are recommended and the	
importance of consistently checking for drug to drug	
interactions whilst on DAA therapy	
4. Sustained virologic response and definition of "cure"	
5. Risks of HCV transmission while patient is viraemic	
Will the clinical lead ensure that the mandatory blood tests are	
taken post transplantation and that results are actioned within the	
timelines stipulated within this document?	
Have you reached out to your referral networks to inform them of	
this potential development?	
Would your referrers be happy to supervise/delegate management	
of HCV post-transplant if the patient is repatriated early?	
Do you know who the clinical lead for the local operational delivery	
network is (England only)?	
If so, has the lead clinician in your organisation reached out to them	
and are they able to respond to treatment advice requests within	
the time frame required in the position statement?	
Has a formal pathway for management of potential recipients been	
agreed with the local ODN (England) or Hepatitis C Oversight	
Committee (in Wales and Scotland)?	
Has the local ODN lead agreed to report the data on individual	
recipients to the oversight committee facilitated by BVHG (see	
above)?	
For Scotland and Wales have the main oversight HCV committees	
agreed to report data on individual recipients to the oversight	
committee facilitated by BVHG (see above)?	
Laboratory Issues	
Have mechanisms been put in place to ensure timely testing of	
potential recipients within the time frames outlined in the national	
position statement?	
Is the lab able to provide a 3-5 day turnaround for HCV PCR results?	
Does the virology lab understand the need for repeated testing in a	
short time frame in the same patient?	
Is there a robust reporting mechanism in place to ensure timely	
communication to the relevant members of the transplant team?	

# Data to be collected by HCV Team



## **Future Steps**

- We have set a 'Go Live' date of September 2017 and will continue to work with NHSBT on the logistics and operationalisation of this
- Dissemination and education about the scheme
- There are on-going discussions with NHSE on the issue of re-imbursement of drug costs
- NHS Scotland and NHS Wales have agreed to drug funding
- Setting up an oversight committee (hosted by BVHG)

# Acknowledgements

- All members of the UK Working Group
- Mary Cannon (in particular)
- Niraj M. Desai

 Full position paper will be available on the BVHG/BASL website by the end of next week https://www.basl.org.uk

## **Questions and Feedback Please**

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