

14 May 2020

Dr Rommel Ravanan
Chair, Kidney Advisory Group

Prof John Forsythe
Associate Medical Director of ODT

Prof Steve Wigmore
President British Transplantation Society

Dear Rommel, John, Steve

We write with the results of some analysis performed in the last week on the combined data-set of NHSBT and the UKRR which we hope will help with your discussions around renal transplantation during the coronavirus pandemic.

We are sure that you realise that the UKRR have been collecting information on covid19 infections from renal centres, patient outcomes from NHS tracing, and recently received the latest renal transplant listing status of patients from NHSBT.

Using this information it has been possible to compare the total population of in-centre haemodialysis patients (ICHHD) with those on ICHHD active on the transplant waiting list, and then in turn with renal transplant recipients in general, and those with a transplant in the last 12 months.

The nature of the data linkage between UKRR and NHSBT (where we only get matching patients returned, and at present only have patient data until end June 2019) means that the numbers are not exactly the same as the number of people actively listed at the current time. None-the-less the number of patients is large enough to think it is likely to represent the complete group of patients.

The results are summarised in the table below:

England only	Total	Number covid pos ^a	Number covid positive and died ^a	Proportion population with infection	Proportion population died
All In-centre HD patients	20,715*	1788	403	8.6%	1.9%
Active tplt listed ICHHD patients	1456	95	7	6.5%	0.5%
All transplant patients	31,180*	295	83	0.9%	0.3%
Transplant patients last 1yr	2711 [†]	64	13	2.4%	0.5%

Table Notes:

* The total numbers of ICHD and TPLT are taken from the 31-Dec-2018 UKRR annual report updated to include amended figures from Cambridge and Coventry.

† The total numbers of renal transplants in England the last 12 months is estimated from the April 2020 NHSBT annual report (3235 patients in the UK), minus an historical 524 patients transplanted in Wales, NI and Scotland (Organ specific report April 2018-19, consistent with Interim report 2019-2020).

α The number of covid cases and their outcomes was taken from the “data till 29-April” weekly report to renal units by the UKRR/RA with further updates from NHS Tracing at the time the linkage was conducted.

It is important to note that we strongly suspect that we are under-reporting covid infection in the transplant group as they will be self-isolating unlike the ICHD patients who will get asked three times each week about symptoms and will now reliably get swab tested if present. This makes comparisons between the proportion of the patients who have had a covid infection difficult to compare between these groups.

More information will come from linkage of the 31-Dec-2019 UKRR data with the PHE covid-swab database which we hope to do for the first time in early June.

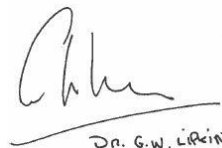
We will then of course share further information about the impact of covid infection on wait-listed dialysis patients and transplant patients when we have it.

We hope that this information is helpful to your discussion on the safety of renal transplantation at this time.

Yours sincerely



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UK Renal Registry



Dr. G.W. Lipkin

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