



Minutes Tissue Typers meeting 2024, Stockholm

Location: Clarion Hotel, Arlanda airport (access via SkyCity)

Date: September 20, 2024

Time: 10 am – 3.00 pm

- 1) Torsten Eich welcomed the participants, followed by a short presentation of all participants. Participants from Gothenburg were present on-line due to their train being cancelled with short notice.
 - a) The official presentation round was concluded by Zane Dobeles, Riga who participated as an observer. She gave a short presentation about their lab and transplant program including the status of their plan to obtain the EFI accreditation next year.
- 2) Torsten Eich was elected as chairperson and Sandra Norrbom was appointed meeting secretary. The minutes will be read and approved by Mats Alheim and Gunilla Grahn Widman.
- 3) No additional matters or other issues to add to the agenda were brought up.
- 4) Pernille Koefoed-Nilsen was appointed to report from the Tissue Typers Meeting to the Nordic Kidney Group meeting.
- 5) Council of representatives meeting: Pernille Koefoed-Nilsen was appointed to report from the Tissue Typers Meeting.
- 6) News from the ScandiTransplant office were presented by Ilse D. Weinreich:
 - a) Statistics regarding kidney exchange obligations and payback.
 - b) Numbers from a retrospective registry-based cohort comparison of 5-year allograft survival between exchange obligations were presented.
 - Questions arise whether the difference in outcome between exchange obligations I and II are due to HLA DQ or maybe HLA C mismatches. Ilse D. Weinreich will investigate if it's possible to compare with non-exchange obligation transplantations.
 - c) Should exchange obligations II, III and V be matched on split level?
 - All patient HLA would first have to be registered on split level. All centers will have to investigate their possibility. The decision is made to summarize the outcome at the next Tissue typers meeting and decide to proceed or not. This will be presented to the Nordic Kidney group for information.



- d) Since January 2022 we have had a common STAMP prioritization when there is more than one STAMP candidate. Should we have common prioritization of the other exchange obligations?

- The meeting discussed reporting multiple exchange obligations to the transplant coordination in a standardized order, based on for example waiting time as presenter in the search. We also discussed the possibility to send both kidneys in case of multiple exchange obligations, which several centers are already doing.
- The transplant coordinators have the possibility to log organ offers and reason for refusal in YASWA. The group is positive to support this suggestion but recommend gathering more data which will be presented at the next Tissue typers meeting to proceed to a decision. This will be presented to the Nordic kidney group.

- e) Days between kidney recipient search and donation:

- In a few centers, donations have been realized 3 - 8 days after the recipient search. This is presumed to be a result of new laws and regulations regarding organ donation in for example Sweden and Norway.
- Centers are advised to perform a new recipient search for possible exchange obligations when extended time between the first search and the donation (more than 24h).

- 7) Ilse D. Weinreich gave an update regarding the STEP program and a short status update regarding EURO-KEP (project for an European exchange program).

Break for LUNCH.

- 8) A proposal for a minor change in exchange obligation 5 was presented by Søren Schwartz Sørensen.

- No objections from the Tissue Typers group. The proposal will be presented to the Nordic Kidney Group Meeting.

- 9) Follow-up from previous meeting:

- a) Status 'Outcome of STAMP patients not transplanted on STAMP exchange', study.
- New results were presented by Søren Schwartz Sørensen. The results will also be presented to the Nordic Kidney Group.

- 10) Status on the delivery problem of Hamax plates was presented by Line Boulland and Jan Peder Amundrø.

- The Norwegian company producing the HAMAX plates has agreed to proceed with the production but has to change the product name and will provide it without CE-marking or user instructions. The plates will be available even in Sweden and Denmark, hopefully available during the next weeks.

- 11) Benchmarking of lab protocols for highly sensitized or HLA incompatible transplants.

(Juha Perasaari, Helsinki)



- a) Who is selected for STAMP/LAMP?
 - b) Who is good for desensitization, HLAi Tx?
 - c) Who needs Imlifidase?
 - d) What do we know about clinical protocols in different scenarios – adjustments of immunosuppression etc.?
 - The meeting discussed the above-mentioned questions. Different strategies are applied at the different centers as expected. A continuous exchange of knowledge in the Tissue typers group is recommended. The meeting agreed on the importance of documentation and discussion in the Tissue typers group/Scandiatransplant office when changes regarding the workup of patients are made.
- 12) Bjarne Møller presented a follow-up on a project of frequency of pre-tx sera samples.
- There was little change in immunization when testing patient sera every 3 months pre-TX. Individual testing intervals could be beneficial.
 - Detection of *de novo* C1q-DSA post-TX was correlated with poor graft survival.
 - The meeting discussed the importance of post-TX monitoring, which could be a challenge regarding changes in post-TX sampling routine for most centers because of economics.
- 13) Juha Perasaari presents questions regarding elevation of TS score by accepting low MFI DSA.
- a) Should we have common rules?
 - When accepting low MFI DSA in STAMP patients, centers could be sending kidneys to 'high risk' patients without a mutual agreement.
 - A comment in YASWA for these patients is essential for traceability when comparing/ evaluating STAMP outcome for all patients.
 - b) Should STAMP steering group have separate meetings on this?
- 14) Do we need to manually enter PRA I and II if there is calculated combined PRA? Question to Ilse D. Weinreich from Juha Perasaari.
- No, there is no need to enter PRA manually.
 - Note that the latest result for class I and/or class II from Fusion is used by YASWA when calculating combined PRA.
 - Manually entered PRA overrides calculated combined PRA.
- 15) Experiences of donor derived cell free DNA? Who has established which assay and for which patient group? (Juha Perasaari, Helsinki)
- Copenhagen has established an analysis that is officially in use, but not practically.
 - Gothenburg, Lund and Stockholm are planning a national study with the aim to replace heart biopsies with dd cf-DNA testing.
 - Aarhus/Odense are planning to introduce dd-cf DNA in the heart program and will be using the commercial kit from CareDx



- Other centers do not have any method in place but several centers are interested.

16) Pernille Koefoed-Nielsen presents their experience of the newly started interlab exchange program for HLA antibodies with Explex. Presently, Aarhus/Odense, Gothenburg and Uppsala participates. Pernille invites other Tissue Typing labs to join the program.

17) Torsten Eich raises the question about automatic transfer of patient/donor HLA-typing to YASWA.

- The meeting agrees that this should be prioritized but raised the problem to have one solution for several different HLA typing platforms.

- Ilse D. Weinreich agrees to investigate and will report during the next Tissue Typers meeting.

18) The Tissue Typers meeting agrees on the suggestion to reduce traveling but raises as well several practical issues:

- Tissue Typers meeting could be hybrid, eg. online for external observers. Core members are recommended to attend on-site. This will open up for more staff members to participate as well.

- Combining the Tissue Typers meeting with other meetings raises the problem for people who has to participate both meetings which means an additional meeting day.

- The advantage of to have the Tissue Typers meeting right before the Nordic Kidney Group meeting has to be taken in consideration.

- No final decision was made and the Tissue Typers meeting will proceed as planned by taking terms.

19) Other issues that were raised:

- All centers are recommended to upload the detailed HLA-typing report to YASWA as an attachment.

- Can we find a common definition for 'HLA-incompatible transplantation'? We need to investigate and Juha Perasaari, Helsinki will send out a questionnaire before the next Tissue Typers meeting.

20) Next Tissue Typers meeting will be arranged by Helsinki, date: 26th of September 2025.

List of participants:		
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