



News from Scandiatransplant office

April 2019

Introduction

Headlines

- First official STEP match run
- cDCD parameters in YASWA

All previous newsletters can be found on the Scandiatransplant web page

<http://www.scandiatransplant.org/news/newsletters>

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Purpose

By this information letter, we wish to communicate to you about status and progress related to the database, collaboration with groups related to Scandiatransplant and on-going working projects.

We hope that you will read it and share the information with whom it might concern.

Do not hesitate to contact us for further information, ideas, problems and help.

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First official STEP match run

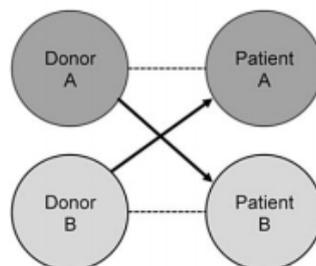
ABO blood group incompatibility and/or pre-existing donor specific HLA antibodies (DSA) are major barriers to living donor kidney transplantation.

Different strategies have emerged to overcome these immunologic incompatibilities, however not all recipients can be helped by these treatments. Kidney Paired Exchange Program, which in Scandiatransplant is called ScandiaTransplant kidney Exchange Program (STEP) is an alternative solution to this problem.

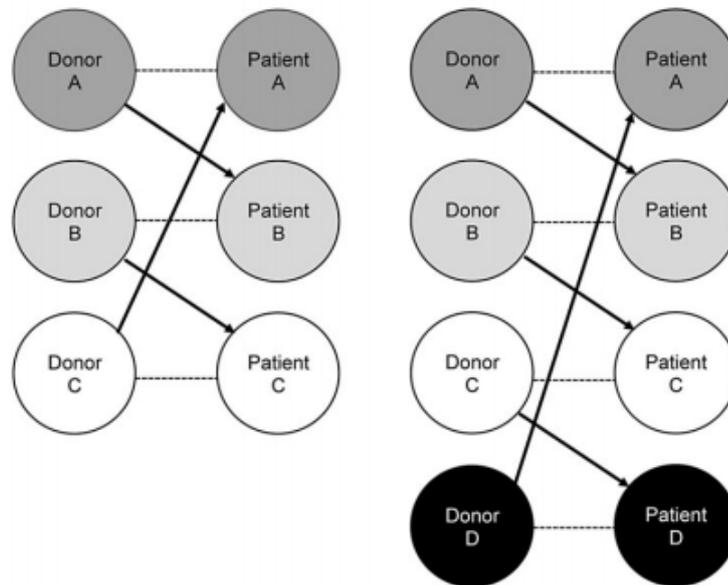
In November 2016, the Swedish initiative for STEP (Swedish-STEP) was presented in the Nordic Kidney Group in Scandiatransplant. In this forum, a great wish was expressed towards a joint STEP program in Scandiatransplant.

This proposal was accepted and a major investigation and programming was started. The complexity in this form of matching is quite large as the algorithm should identify the maximum number of possible transplants, while minimizing the probability of unexpected positive crossmatches.

The first test version of the STEP matching program was launched in YASWA in [June 2018](#). Initially the match run was created only to result in 2-way exchanges meaning that two incompatible pairs simply exchange donors, creating two compatible matches.



However statistically it became clear that a more complex procedure was needed to make it possible also to identify cycles with three or more incompatible pairs.



The algorithm in YASWA has been modified to support this and we are now ready with the first version of the STEP program. This will make it possible to identify one or more possible cycles among the pairs who are registered in the STEP program.

Initially possible cycles will be identified, later the program will be expanded with chains and thus the possibility of including altruistic donors.

The first official STEP match run is scheduled for April 9, 2019. In initial test runs several cycles have been identified. Next run is expected to be in the beginning of June.

A final decision on how often the match run will be performed has not yet been made, however expectation is every 2nd or 3rd month.

All countries within Scandiatransplant have been involved in this initial process, but the current status differs:

Denmark: Has enrolled pairs in the program

Estonia: No potential candidates for the STEP program

Finland: Pending for new legislation to be implemented

Iceland: Pending due to financial issue, potential candidates are being prepared.

Norway: Pending due to challenges with the local Data Protection Officer in charge at RH-OUS. Hopefully to be solved during spring of 2019

Sweden: Has enrolled pairs in the program

STEP guidelines are found [here](#) and details about registration in YASWA are found [here](#)

cDCD parameters in YASWA

Initiatives are taken within many of the Scandiatransplant countries towards implementing Controlled Donation After Circulatory Death (cDCD). In relation with this trend wishes have arisen towards adding more variables in YASWA to make quality assurance, comparison of procedures and documentation possible in a larger scale. First suggestion for additional parameters is now available and ready for your comments. The work document is found [here](#), if you have comments or suggestions please send them to the Scandiatransplant office no later than May 15th 2019.