

Meeting minutes STEP steering committee 2026-01-23 (Online)

Participants:

Karin Skov, Aarhus

Per Lindnér, Gothenburg (writer of minutes)

Line Boulland, Oslo

Ilkka Helanterä, Helsinki

Jörn Petter Lindahl, Oslo

Tommy Andersson, Lund

Jouni Lauronen, Helsinki

Anne Werner Hauge, Copenhagen

Ilse Duus Weinreich, Scandiatransplant (writer of minutes)

1. Information from the EURO-KEP Project

Per Lindnér informed the group about the current status of the EURO-KEP project.

2. STEP activity

Ilse Duus Weinreich presented an update on activities within STEP.

- A total of 109 transplants have been performed through the program so far.
- Data on completed and failed cycles/chains were presented.
- The number of match runs per year was discussed.

In collaboration with other European programs, it has become clear that broken cycles are not calculated in the same way (i.e., at the same time point) across programs. This makes direct comparison of data between programs difficult.

3. Questions Regarding STEP

Several issues were discussed, including:

• ABO Incompatibility (Karin Skov)

If certain ABO blood groups are not acceptable (e.g., due to high isohemagglutinin titers), selected blood groups can be defined as unacceptable for individual patients prior to the match run.

• Transport of Organs (Karin Skov)

Responsibility for arranging organ transportation must be clearly specified in the guidelines.

In most centers, transplant (TX) coordinators determine the most appropriate transport routes based on time, cost, and logistics. The general principle is that the receiving center plans and covers the costs related to receiving the kidney.

• Communication (Jörn Petter Lindahl)

A significant number of emails are exchanged following each match run. It should be clearly stated in the email subject line which cycle/chain the communication relates to. Email solutions and communication functionalities within YASWA were also discussed.

- **Unforeseen Events (Ilse Duus Weinreich)**

Procedures for handling unforeseen events should preferably be outlined in the guidelines before such situations occur.

If a donor-recipient pair donates a kidney without receiving one in return, a possible solution could be to grant the patient priority on the deceased donor waiting list within Scandiatransplant.

It was agreed that the guidelines need to be updated with additional details. Karin Skov will prepare a draft of a revised version.

4. Chair of the STEP Steering Committee

Per Lindnér expressed his wish to step down as Chair of the STEP Steering Committee. It was proposed that Ilkka Helanterä take over the position. Ilkka has accepted the role (confirmed by email after the meeting).