

The 2009 Annual Report of the OPTN and SRTR

Heart Transplantation in the U.S., 1999-2008

Overview

- This chapter features 1999-2008 trends in heart transplantation, as seen in data from the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) and the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR).
- Despite a 32 percent decline in actively listed candidates over the decade, there was a 20 percent increase from 2007 to 2008.
- There continues to be an increase in listed candidates diagnosed with congenital heart disease or retransplantation.
- The proportion of patients listed as Status 1A and 1B continues to increase, with a decrease in Status 2 listings.
- Waiting list mortality decreased from 2000 through 2007, but increased 18 percent from 2007 to 2008; despite the increase in waiting list death rates in 2008, waiting list mortality for Status 1A and Status 1B continues to decrease.
- Recipient numbers have varied by 10 percent over the past decade, with an increased proportion of transplants performed in infants and patients above 65 years of age.
- Despite the increase in Status 1A and Status 1B recipients at transplant, posttransplant survival has continued to improve.
- With the rise in infant candidates for transplantation and their high waiting list mortality, better means of supporting infants in need of transplant and allocation of organs to infant candidates is clearly needed.

The figures on the following page are “dashboard” views of the state of heart transplantation. Details on the implications of these figures, and explanations of the methods used in creating them, are included in Chapter VI of this year’s report.

The 2009 OPTN/SRTR Annual Report

The data and analyses reported in the 2009 Annual Report of the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network and the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients have been supplied by the United Network for Organ Sharing and the Arbor Research Collaborative for Health under contract with the Department of Health and Human Services. The authors alone are responsible for reporting and interpreting these data; the views expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. government.

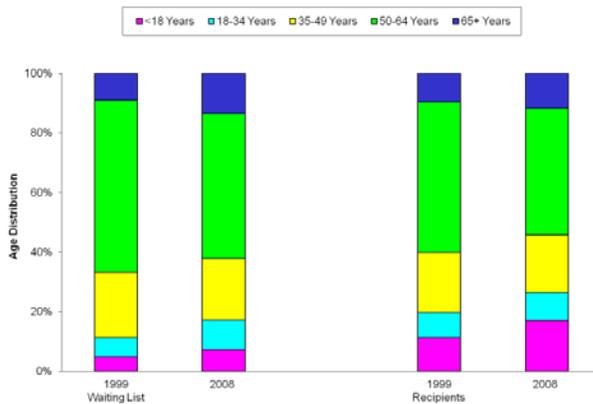
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Figure I-7. Heart Transplantation at a Glance



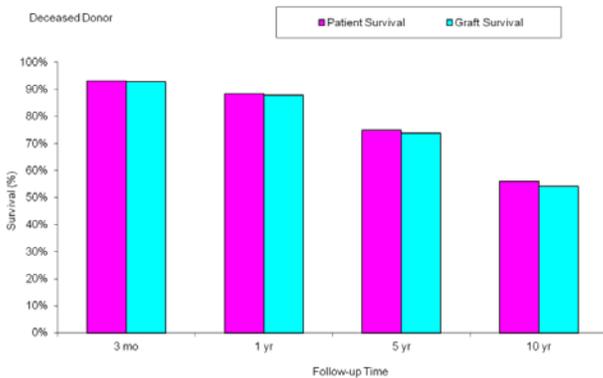
Number of Transplants and Size of Active Waiting List.

The number of heart transplants has remained stable over the past decade. The number of patients awaiting a heart decreased steeply from 2000 to 2005, likely reflecting improvements in medical and surgical therapy for end-stage heart failure. Source: 2009 OPTN/SRTR Annual Report, Tables 1.7, 11.1a.



Age Distribution of Recipients and Active Waiting List.

Trends in the age distribution of wait-listed candidates show that the proportions (and absolute numbers) of patients younger than 35 and older than 64 years increased, while the age group 35-64 years has decreased. The trend in transplant recipient age showed a similar pattern, although the ages below 35 years had greater representation than on the waiting list. Source: 2009 OPTN/SRTR Annual Report, Tables 11.1a, 11.4.



Unadjusted Patient and Graft Survival.

Patient survival improved in recent years for heart recipients. At 1, 5, and 10 years following heart transplantation, 88%, 75%, and 56% of patients, respectively, were alive. Graft survival was very similar to patient survival because very few patients receive a second heart transplant. Source: 2009 OPTN/SRTR Annual Report, Tables 11.10, 11.14.