

The 2009 Annual Report of the OPTN and SRTR

Lung Transplantation in the United States, 1999-2008

Overview

- This chapter highlights trends and changes in lung and heart-lung transplantation in the United States from 1999-2008. While adult lung transplantation grew significantly over the past decade, rates of heart-lung and pediatric lung transplantation have remained low.
- Since implementation of the Lung Allocation Score (LAS) donor allocation system in 2005, decreases in the number of active waiting list patients, waiting times for lung transplantation, and death rates on the waiting list have occurred.
- However, characteristics of recipients transplanted in the LAS era differed from those transplanted earlier. The proportion of candidates undergoing lung transplantation for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease has decreased, while increasing for those with pulmonary fibrosis. In the LAS era, older, sicker, and previously transplanted candidates underwent transplantation more frequently compared with the previous era.
- Despite these changes, when compared with the pre-LAS era, one-year survival after lung transplantation did not significantly change after LAS inception.
- The long-term effects of the change in the characteristics of lung transplant recipients on overall outcomes for lung transplantation remain unknown.

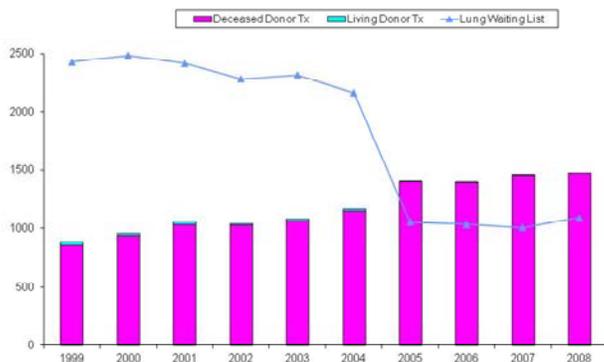
The figures on the following page are “dashboard” views of the state of lung transplantation. Details on these figures, and explanations of the methods used in creating them are included in Chapter VII of this year’s report.

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.

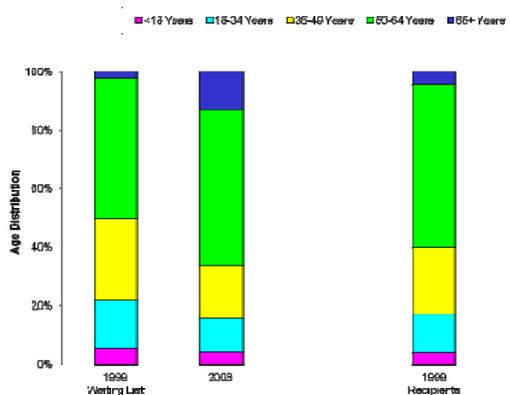
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Figure I-8. Lung Transplantation at a Glance



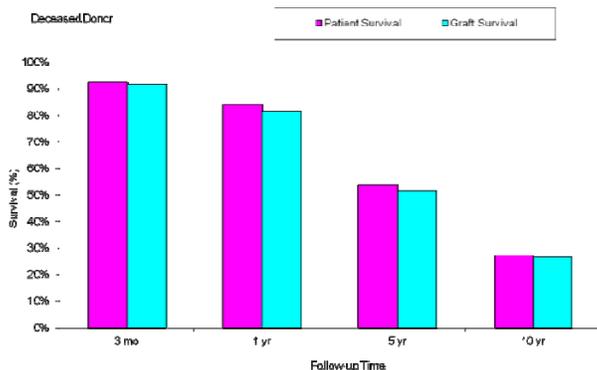
Number of Transplants and Size of Active Waiting List.

The number of lung transplants has increased in the last 2 years. The number of patients awaiting a transplant dropped steeply in 2005 after a stable pattern during the prior 6 years. This sharp reduction is largely attributable to a major change in allocation policy, which is now based on medical urgency and calculated transplant benefit rather than waiting time. Source: 2009 OPTN/SRTR Annual Report, Tables 1.7, 12.1a.



Age Distribution of Recipients and Active Waiting List.

The lung waiting list showed a mixed trend in age distribution, with increasing percentages of candidates older than 50 years and decreasing percentages younger than 18 years. Candidates 18-49 years old showed a corresponding reduction in the percentage of the waiting list. The pattern for transplant recipients showed a similar increase for ages 50 years and above, and a decrease in percentages for younger ages, including children. Source: 2009 OPTN/SRTR Annual Report, Tables 12.1a, 12.4a, 12.4b.



Unadjusted Patient and Graft Survival.

Patient survival has been improving in recent years. At 1 year following deceased donor lung transplantation, 84% of patients were alive. Graft survival was very similar to patient survival because very few lung retransplants are performed. Source: 2009 OPTN/SRTR Annual Report, Tables 12.10a, 12.10b, 12.14a, 12.14b.

