

UNOS: 1989

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Abstract: This paper provides the current data which has been accrued by the UNOS National Scientific Registry as a result of the mandatory sharing of 6-antigen matched kidneys. The 6-month graft survival does not show, as yet, any benefit for first grafts ($N = 72$), but does show substantial benefit for repeat grafts ($N = 25$). No penalty from sharing could be demonstrated since graft survival for local and shared organs was the same. The rationale for two new UNOS policies are discussed: (1) mandatory sharing of phenotypically identical kidneys, (2) the "payback system" for shared kidneys. Finally, some personal comments of the author regarding the importance of the National Organ Procurement and Transplant Network are recorded.

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The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) completed its second operational year as the National Organ Procurement and Transplant Network (NOPTN) on October 1, 1989. This progress report will provide some general perspective. The organizing committee specifically requested a summary of the policies and results of mandatory kidney sharing, which will be provided. Finally, I (J. C. McD.) will close with a few general and, perhaps, personal comments.

UNOS began as a computer program devised by the South-Eastern Organ Procurement Foundation (SEOPF) to make available nationally computerized matching of donors to recipients. By 1984, it had evolved into a voluntary incorporated NOPTN largely due to the efforts of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons and SEOPF. The year 1985-86 was spent in reorganization and contract application. This led to an initial 1-yr federal contract which founded the development of the NOPTN by UNOS from October '86 to October '87. That organizational contract was successfully completed and led to a 3-yr functional contract. We are now in the 24th month of that 36-month contract. The tasks required for UNOS to become the NOPTN were truly overwhelming. The standards for transplant centers, typing laboratories, and organ procurement agencies had to be developed and every U.S. center evaluated. Every policy required debate and due process. The National Scientific Registry had to be organized and made functional. Literally dozens of other equally difficult and time-consuming problems required

solution. Considering the enormity of this effort, it should not be surprising that the NOPTN as an instrument of national policy is not yet perfectly tuned. What is surprising is the magnitude of its successes.

Mandatory sharing for 6-antigen matched kidneys

The Task Force on Organ Transplantation authorized by the National Transplant Act of 1983 reported in 1986. Contained within that report was the recommendation for mandated sharing of 6-antigen matched kidneys as well as phenotypically matched kidneys assuming the identification of at least 1 antigen at each locus.

UNOS at its annual meeting in May of 1986, attended by more than 200 participants, voted to accept the 6-antigen match proposal but declined

Table 1. United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) organization history

1976-1984	SEOPF* Computer Program
1984-1985	Voluntary NOPTN**
1985-1986	Mandatory NOPTN
1986-1987	Organizational Contract
1987-1990	Functional Contract

*South-Eastern Organ Procurement Foundation.

**National Organ Procurement and Transplant Network.

Table 2. Report of task force on organ transplantation*

Organ sharing be mandated for perfectly matched
(HLA A, B, & DR) donor recipient pairs and for donors and
recipients with zero antigen mismatches ...

*Organ transplantation U.S. Dept. H & H. Apr 1986: p 7.

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