


## New UNOS Allocation System and Impact upon Cardiac Transplantation

Michael D Kwan, MD, FACC  
Program Director  
Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplant Program



1



## US Heart Allocation System

- 1989: 2-tiered local + 3 zone system
  - Status 1: ICU w/inotropes, mechanical circulatory support (MCS), or IABP
  - Status 2: all others
- 1999: 3-tiered urgency-based system
  - Status 1A: Early VAD mortality 5-10%/wk
  - Status 1B: Stable on home inotropes, stable LVAD
  - Status 2: Stable at home
- 2006: integrated pediatric transplants
  - Integration of geographical proximity
  - Utilizing ABO compatibility

2

## US Heart Allocation System

- Challenges
  - VAD morbidity/mortality evolving
    - No good predictive models for complications
    - VAD usage increased from 8.9% to 24.4%
  - Technology evolving, w/variable penetration
    - ECMO
    - Total Artificial Heart
  - Regional variability in wait times
    - Based on Donor Service Areas (DSA's), which were defined in the 1980's
    - March 2000 HHS Final Rule: "shall not be based on the candidate's place of residence or place of listing"
  - 67% of all transplants were being performed on status 1A's
  - Too many patients listed by exemption

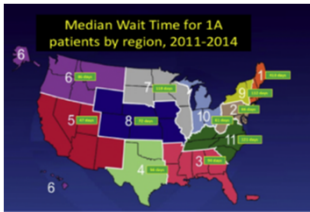



OPTN/UNOS Proposal to Modify the Adult Heart Allocation System, p6

3

## Wait times

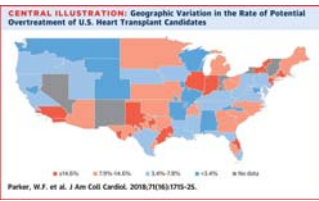
- 162 percent increase in last decade
- Regional variability
  - Transplant center density
  - Population density
    - Donors and recipients
  - Cultural differences
  - Practice variability
    - Status based on treatment, not disease
- Sicker recipients
  - Older
  - Pre-sensitized
  - Retransplants



JACC HF 2017;5(12):862

4

## Overtreatment?



- Overtreatment defined as inotropic usage in pts absent hemodynamic criteria
- Odd of overtreatment 17.5x higher in top v. bottom quartile centers, and independent of patient factors
  - Exaggerated in competitive regions (New York, Chicago, LA)
- Although trend, no better survival in higher quartile centers (p=0.08)

Parker, W.F. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2018;71(16):1719-25.

5

## Do Patients Supported With Continuous-flow Left Ventricular Assist Device Have a Sufficient Risk of Death to Justify a Priority Allocation? A Propensity Score Matched Analysis of Patients Listed in UNOS Status 2

Stefano Mastroianni, MD, MPH,<sup>1</sup> Angelo Maria Dell'Aquila, MD,<sup>2</sup> Oliver Van Cannegem, MD, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Alan Poncelet, MD, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Luc-Marie Jacques, MD,<sup>1</sup> and José Garcia, MD<sup>1</sup>

### Is it time for a cardiac allocation score? First results from the Eurotransplant pilot study on a survival benefit-based heart allocation

Jacqueline M. Smits, MD, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Erwin de Vries, MSc,<sup>1</sup> Michel De Pauw, MD, PhD,<sup>2</sup> Andreas Zuckermann, MD, PhD,<sup>3</sup> Axel Rahmel, MD,<sup>4</sup> Bruno Meiser, MD, PhD,<sup>5</sup> Guenther Lauffer, MD, PhD,<sup>6</sup> Hermann Reichenspurner, MD, PhD,<sup>7</sup> and Martin Strübe, MD, PhD<sup>8</sup>

Towards a cardiac allocation score: a retrospective calculation for 73 patients from a German transplant center

Sebastian Gies,<sup>1</sup> Michael Benoit-Herz,<sup>2</sup> Qian Zhou,<sup>3</sup> Georg Tzannier,<sup>4</sup> Matthias Rock,<sup>5</sup> Andrew Zink,<sup>6</sup> Friedrich Beyersdorf,<sup>7</sup> Christoph Bode,<sup>8</sup> and Sebastian Gundrum<sup>9</sup>

### Prediction of Waitlist Mortality in Adult Heart Transplant Candidates: The Candidate Risk Score

Carrie Janssens, MS, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Camille Legras, MD,<sup>1</sup> Christian Jacquelin, MD,<sup>1</sup> Pascal Luytens, MD,<sup>1</sup> Christine Cantelmo, MS,<sup>1</sup> Benoît Aubry, MD,<sup>1</sup> Raphaël Porcher, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Olivier Ballein, MD,<sup>1</sup> and Richard Dorent, MD<sup>2</sup>

6

**TABLE 3** Univariate analysis of incident predictors of 5-year graft loss: allocation criteria (n = 1334)

	HR	95% CI	P-value
Age < 55	1.0	1.4, 2.4	<.05
Diastolic blood pressure	1.0	0.9, 1.0	<.05
Valvular aortic stenosis or regurgitation	1.5	1.0, 2.0	<.05
BMI < 25 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	0.8	0.6, 1.1	.3
Primary disease category	1.7	1.2, 2.2	<.05
History of stroke	1.5	1.0, 2.0	<.05
Pulmonary disease at listing	1.5	1.0, 2.2	<.05
Diabetes mellitus	1.2	0.9, 1.7	<.05
End-stage azotemia	1.8	1.3, 2.4	<.05
Heart failure at transplant	0.8	0.7, 1.2	.3
Ischemic etiology of donor heart	0.8	0.7, 1.0	.4
Transplant	1.5	1.0, 2.2	<.05
Heart from MCH or transplant	1.0	0.7, 1.4	.7
Short-term MCH or transplant	1.3	0.8, 1.9	.3
Acute or chronic rejection from first transplant	1.8	1.3, 2.5	<.05
ICU	1.0	0.9, 1.1	<.05
Brain	1.0	0.9, 1.1	<.05
AKI	1.0	0.9, 1.1	<.05
AKI	1.0	1.0, 1.0	.2
Postcardiac	1.0	1.0, 1.0	.2
Renal failure	1.0	0.9, 1.1	.3
Intubation	1.0	0.9, 1.1	.3

**TABLE 4** Univariate analysis of donor predictors of 5-year graft loss: allocation criteria (n = 1334)

	HR	95% CI	P-value
Age < 55	1.0	1.4, 2.2	<.05
Diastolic BP	1.0	1.0, 1.0	<.05
BMI < 25 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	0.8	0.5, 1.2	.2
Chronic kidney disease at death	1.1	0.9, 1.4	.4
Cardiac arrest	0.9	0.7, 1.1	.3
Myocarditis	1.2	0.9, 1.7	<.05
KCl dose > 7 g	1.0	0.7, 1.3	.3
Diastolic BP	1.4	1.0, 1.9	<.05
Lactate dehydrogenase level	1.0	0.9, 1.1	<.05
ICU	1.0	0.9, 1.0	.3
Left ventricular dilation	1.0	0.9, 1.0	.4
Left ventricular hypertrophy	1.2	0.7, 1.1	.3
Neuroleptic dose > 1 mg/kg	0.9	0.5, 1.3	.4
Ischemic or dilated cardiomyopathy	1.0	0.9, 1.1	.3

**TABLE 5** Univariate analysis of donor recipient size, CMV, and organ handling and location of ischemia associated with 5-year graft loss: allocation criteria (n = 1334)

	HR	95% CI	P-value
Recipient < 55	1.7	1.2, 2.3	<.05
Donor recipient matching	1		
Male recipient male donor	1.2	0.8, 1.8	.4
Male recipient female recipient	1.1	0.7, 1.7	.6
Female donor female recipient	1.1	0.7, 1.7	.6
Female donor female recipient	1.1	0.7, 1.7	.6
Recipient CMV positive	1.0	0.9, 1.1	.4
Donor CMV negative or recipient CMV negative	1.0	0.9, 1.1	.4
Donor CMV positive	1.0	0.9, 1.1	.4
Donor recipient weight ratio	0.9	0.8, 1.1	.2

AJT, Dec 2019 (19):1509-10

### 2018 Allocation system

- Subdivides status 1A and status 1B
- Status 1A -> status 1,2,3
- Status 1B -> status 4,5
- Specific hemodynamic criteria defined
- Only good for 14d
- Renewal requires failure to wean
- Status 4
  - Hypertrophic and restrictive CMP
  - Retransplantation
  - Adult congenital heart disease
- Status 5
  - Combined organ transplant

**TABLE 1** Current and Proposed Heart Transplantation Allocation System

Old Tiers	New Tiers	Heart Transplant Criteria*
Status 1A (most urgent)	Status 1	ECMO non/chargeable BIVAD = BIVAD MCS with life-threatening ventricular arrhythmias
	Status 2	Ventricular tachycardia/fibrillation, intra-aortic balloon pump, Percutaneous endovascular MCS, Total artificial heart, Dischargeable BIVAD/VAD MCS with device failure
	Status 3	LVAD after 30 days, High-dose or >1 inotropic, Status 1A, Exceptions: MCS with other complications
Status 1B	Status 4	Stable LVAD, Inotropes without monitoring Status 1B exceptions, Hemodynamically significant CHD, Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy = sxs or advanced signs, Restrictive cardiomyopathy = sxs or advanced signs ICM with signs = ischemia, Amyloidosis = sxs or advanced signs, Retransplantation = CAV or advanced HF sxs
	Status 5	Combined organs
Status 2 (less urgent)	Status 6	All others

JACC HF 2017;5(12):906

### 2018 Allocation system

- Mechanical circulatory support
  - VADs downgraded
  - ECMOs upgraded
- Broader organ sharing
  - Status 1 and 2 go out to Zone A (500 miles, now 250 miles)
  - Then, comes back to DSA for status 3 before going back out to Zone A

**Figure 1: Zones Used for Thoracic Organ Allocation**

OPTN/UNOS Proposal to Modify the Adult Heart Allocation System, p4

### 2018 Allocation system

- Pros**
  - Decreases geographic disparities
  - Recognizes changes in MCS outcomes
    - 80% VAD survival at 2 years
    - No improvement in ECMO outcomes
    - No improvement in percutaneous MCS
  - Recognizes disease previously requiring exemptions
    - Hypertrophic CMP
    - Restrictive CMP
    - Retransplant
    - Adult congenital heart disease
    - VT storm
    - Multiorgan transplant
- Cons**
  - Short term support devices incentivized
    - More inpatient transplants?
    - Transplanting sicker patients?
  - Bias towards HF/EF
  - Highly-sensitized patients not addressed
  - Broader sharing = longer ischemic times

- Effects on recipients
  - 85% of transplants now on inpatients
  - Sicker recipients
- Effects on donor hearts
  - Ischemic times increased
  - More compromised donors
- Effects on transplant centers
  - Outcomes
  - "Robin Hood" effect
- Effect on communities?
  - Fewer transplant centers?
  - Fewer candidates due to distance?

**B. Waiting List Information**

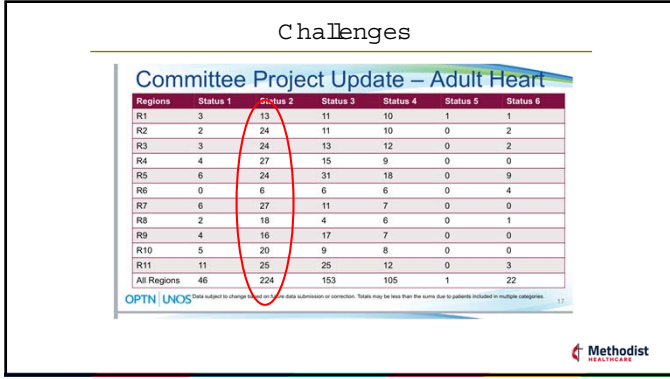
### Challenges

**Committee Project Update – Adult Heart**

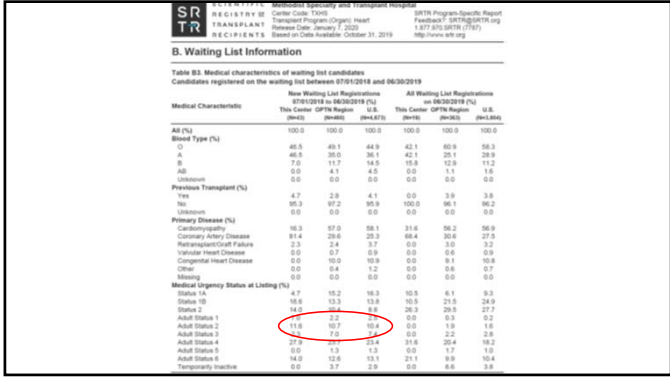
Regions	Status 1	Status 2	Status 3	Status 4	Status 5	Status 6	Status 7 (inactive)
R1	3	3	27	83	6	56	58
R2	1	6	12	159	10	76	89
R3	1	13	33	200	10	56	108
R4	0	7	9	129	10	66	125
R5	0	4	22	162	14	86	127
R6	0	1	2	19	1	13	24
R7	0	10	35	178	13	71	109
R8	0	2	5	97	4	35	42
R9	1	8	17	194	5	71	41
R10	0	5	23	199	1	43	96
R11	4	7	18	183	13	46	108
All Regions	10	66	203	1592	86	614	925

OPTN/UNOS. Based on OPTN data as of January 24, 2019. Data subject to change based on future data submission or correction. Totals may be less than the sums due to patients included in multiple categories.

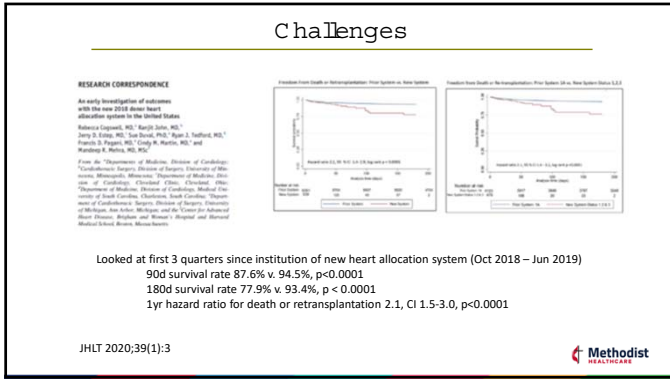
Methodist HEALTHCARE



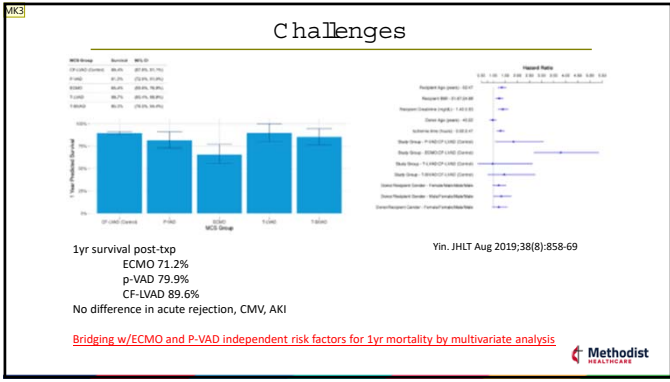
13



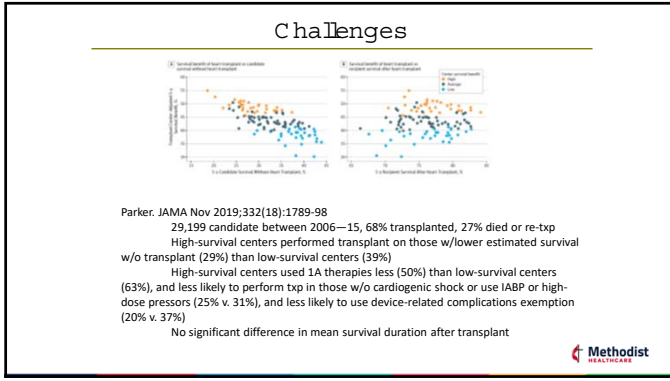
14



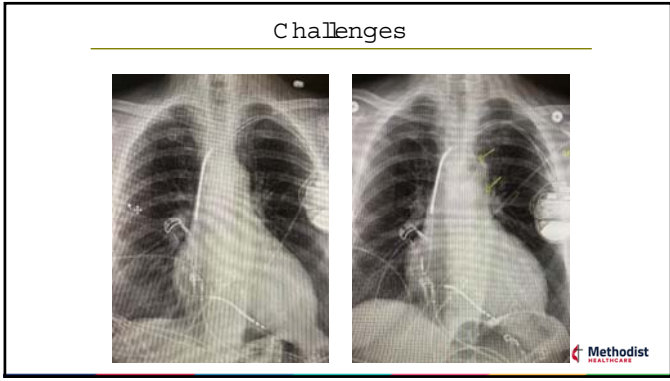
15



16



17



18

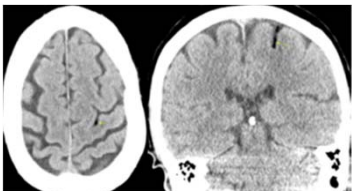


### Challenges


**Axillary intraaortic balloon pump rupture and cerebral embolism because of helium leak**

Adam H. Obaidi, MD,<sup>a</sup> Chandra Kunavarapu, MD,<sup>b</sup> and Michael Kwan, MD<sup>c</sup>

*From the <sup>a</sup>Department of Cardiovascular Disease, San Antonio Military Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; and the <sup>b</sup>Advanced Heart Failure Program, Methodist Hospital, San Antonio, Texas.*



JHLT Oct 2019; 38(10):1122-23



19

### Meeting the challenge

- Increase donation
  - Public service messages
  - Donor registries
  - Automated notification of OPOs
- Ongoing evolution of VAD therapy
  - Approaching equipoise w/transplant
- Reassessment
  - Allocation system to be reassessed
  - Intermediate step towards Cardiac Allocation Score?

- TransMedics Organ Care System<sup>®</sup>
  - PROCEED II Lancet Jun 2015;385(9987): 2577-84
    - Non-inferiority in 130 pts, 10 countries
- Donation after Circulatory Death
  - Traditionally, cardiac donation after brain death
  - Used in non-thoracic organs
  - Ex vivo perfusion may allow consideration
  - Regulatory (Germany, US) and logistical limitations
- ABO incompatible transplants
  - Precedence w/abdominal transplants
  - Bergensfeldt. JHLT Jul 2015;34:892-98
    - Higher 1 yr death rate, but censored survival beyond 1 yr comparable

20

### Hepatitis C donors

- Efficacy of direct-acting antiviral agents
- Younger donors
- Shorter waiting times (78d v. 329d)

- DONATE HCV-Trial: NEJM Apr 2019;380:1606-17
  - 36 lungs, 8 hearts
    - 42/44 w/immediate seroconversion
  - Early seroconversion, but excellent graft/patient survival after DAAV x 4 wks
    - 43% v. 33% ACR, OR 0.68 (CI 0.07-7.06)
    - 100% v. 83% survival, OR 0 (CI 0-9.25)
  - Only 1 post-txp death @ 8 mos from bacterial infection
  - No adverse safety issues identified
  - Shorter waiting times, shorter hospitalization v. non-HCV donors

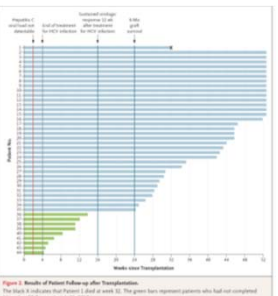


Figure 3. Results of Patient Follow-up after Transplantation. The black line indicates that Patient 1 died at week 10. The green bars represent patients who had not completed 36 weeks of follow-up by 30/06/2018.

21

### Hepatitis C donors

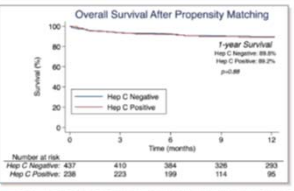


Figure 2. Overall 1-year survival in the propensity-matched heart transplants performed using hepatitis C-negative vs hepatitis C-positive donors.

**TABLE 3. Complications during HCV therapy**


Number of patients with available data (total N=42 patients)	n (%)
Graft failure/injection during DAA therapy <sup>a</sup>	46 (74)
No	1 (0.2)
AMR	1 (0.2)
ACR	4 (10)
Graft dysfunction during DAA therapy	15 (24)
Waf status at 12 wk	62 (100)
Alive	59 (95)
Death	3 (5)
Rebound change in immunosuppressive level	34 (54)
No	32 (94)
Yes	2 (6)

ACR, acute cellular rejection; AMR, antibody-mediated rejection; DAA, direct-acting antiviral; HCV, hepatitis C virus; OR, Odds Ratio; International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation.

JAMA. Jan 2020;9(2):6 Transplantation. Sep 2019;5(9):e486

22

### Hepatitis C donors

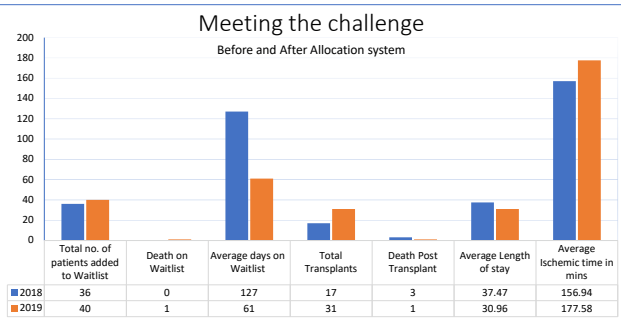


- Dr Robert Montgomery
  - Director, NYU Langone Transplant Center
  - Pioneer in domino kidney transplant
- Familial CMP
  - ICD @ 29 y/o
  - Listed Sep 2018
  - VT storm Aug 2019
  - OHT 9/20/19
    - 4d waiting
  - Back to work after 2 mos


23

### Meeting the challenge

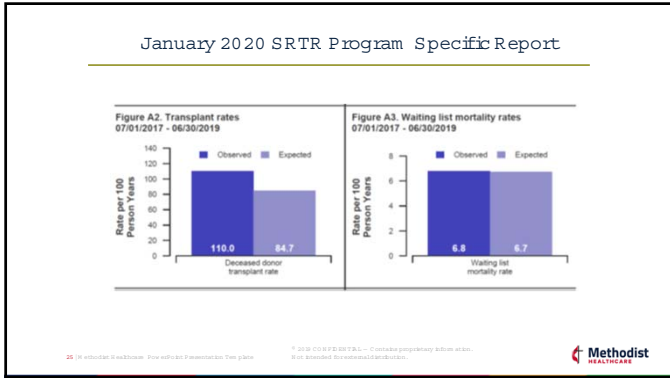
Before and After Allocation system



	2018	2019
Total no. of patients added to Waitlist	36	40
Death on Waitlist	0	1
Average days on Waitlist	127	61
Total Transplants	17	31
Death Post Transplant	3	1
Average Length of stay	37.47	30.96
Average Ischemic time in mins	156.94	177.58



24



25

### January 2020 SRTR Program Specific Report

Table C1D. Deceased donor transplant recipient demographic characteristics  
Patients transplanted between 07/01/2018 and 06/30/2019

Characteristic	Center (N=27)	Region (N=321)	U.S. (N=3,529)
<b>Ethnicity/Race (%)*</b>			
White	55.6	52.3	62.5
African-American	0.0	23.7	21.7
Hispanic/Latino	44.4	18.7	10.7
Asian	0.0	4.0	4.2
Other	0.0	1.2	0.9
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Age (%)</b>			
<2 years	0.0	7.5	5.1
2-11 years	0.0	0.5	4.6
12-17	0.0	3.7	4.6
18-34	3.7	5.9	9.8
35-49 years	14.1	13.7	17.7
50-64 years	59.3	41.1	40.7
65-69 years	20.3	18.7	14.2
70+ years	0.0	4.0	3.2
<b>Gender (%)</b>			
Male	81.5	72.9	69.4
Female	18.5	27.1	30.6

Methodist HEALTHCARE

26

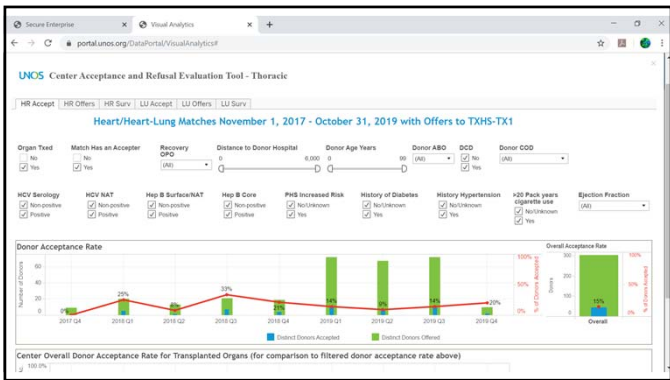
### January 2020 Program Specific Report

Table C2D. Deceased donor transplant recipient medical characteristics  
Patients transplanted between 07/01/2018 and 06/30/2019

Characteristic	Center (N=27)	Region (N=321)	U.S. (N=3,529)
<b>Blood Type (%)</b>			
O*	40.1	47.0	49.4
A	40.1	37.9	38.4
B	2.2	5.1	10.2
AB	0.0	5.5	5.5
<b>Previous Transplant (%)</b>			
Yes	21.4	4.0	3.3
No	78.6	96.0	96.7
<b>Body Mass Index (%)</b>			
<20	11.1	24.0	20.7
21-25	39.6	28.6	27.3
26-30	25.0	28.0	28.4
31-35	22.2	19.2	18.5
36-40	1.4	2.6	4.1
>40	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Primary Disease (%)</b>			
Cardiomyopathy	0.0	57.0	61.5
Coronary Artery Disease	0.0	29.9	24.5
Alcohol-related disease	0.0	0.0	0.0
Valvular Heart Disease	7.4	0.0	1.0
Congenital Heart Disease	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	2.2	1.2
<b>Medical Urgency Status at Transplant (%)</b>			
Urgent	22.2	28.0	30.8
Standard	77.8	72.0	69.2
<b>Recipient Medical Condition at Transplant (%)</b>			
Not Transplanted	29.6	33.3	37.4
ICU	14.8	16.2	14.8
Other	55.6	50.5	47.8
<b>Recipient Mechanical, Ventilated or Organ-Perfusion Support Status at Transplant (%)</b>			
No Support Mechanism	91.0	21.2	19.5
Other Support Mechanism	9.0	78.8	80.5
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0

Methodist HEALTHCARE

27



28

### STS Quality Assurance Quarterly Report (2019 Q2) - Cumulative COVERAGE: June 23, 2006 - June 30, 2019

SITE: Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital

#### II.A. Pre-Implant Summaries - Demographics

AGE GROUP (yr)	TXHS-0065					
	< 2012		2012 - 2015		2016 - 2019 (Jan-Jun)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
18-29	0	0.0%	4	7.4%	8	14.2%
30-39	0	0.0%	21	38.9%	15	26.7%
40-59	2369	42.7%	4369	41.2%	3742	40.8%
60-79	9	42.8%	29	53.7%	32	67.1%
80+	1	4.7%	7	13.0%	11	23.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

AGE GROUP (yr)	STS Internacs					
	< 2012		2012 - 2015		2016 - 2019 (Jan-Jun)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
18-29	772	13.0%	1244	11.6%	1110	12.1%
30-39	2369	42.7%	4369	41.2%	3742	40.8%
40-59	2311	40.7%	4341	40.3%	4312	46.7%
60-79	20	0.3%	77	0.7%	45	0.4%
80+	2	0.0%	7	0.0%	14	0.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5672</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>10651</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>9215</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Methodist HEALTHCARE

29

### STS Quality Assurance Quarterly Report (2019 Q2) - Cumulative COVERAGE: June 23, 2006 - June 30, 2019

SITE: Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital

#### Exhibit 8. Patient Profile Levels

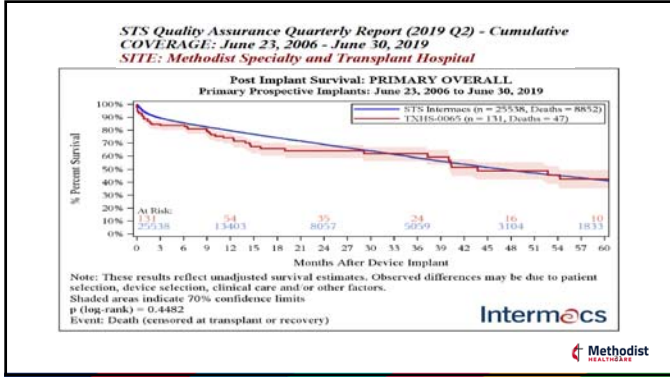
PRE-IMPLANT PATIENT PROFILE	TXHS-0065					
	< 2012		2012 - 2015		2016 - 2019 (Jan-Jun)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
1 Critical Cardiogenic Shock	10	47.6%	13	24.0%	5	8.9%
2 Progressive Decline	8	38.0%	20	37.0%	27	48.2%
3 Stable but Inotropic Dependent	0	0.0%	5	9.2%	16	32.1%
4 Resting Symptoms	1	4.7%	10	18.5%	6	10.7%
5 Exertion Intolerant	2	9.5%	4	7.4%	6	8.9%
6 Exertion Limited	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
7 Advanced NYHA Class 3	0	0.0%	2	3.7%	2	3.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

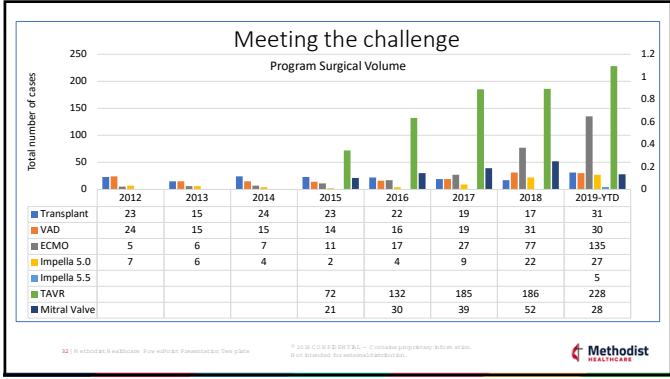
PRE-IMPLANT PATIENT PROFILE	STS Internacs					
	< 2012		2012 - 2015		2016 - 2019 (Jan-Jun)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
1 Critical Cardiogenic Shock	1150	20.3%	1550	15.4%	1650	18.0%
2 Progressive Decline	2301	40.5%	3793	35.5%	3150	34.2%
3 Stable but Inotropic Dependent	1278	22.4%	3458	32.4%	3288	35.6%
4 Resting Symptoms	664	11.7%	1418	13.3%	922	10.0%
5 Exertion Intolerant	148	2.6%	237	2.2%	100	1.1%
6 Exertion Limited	87	1.5%	66	0.6%	53	0.5%
7 Advanced NYHA Class 3	41	0.7%	38	0.3%	20	0.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5672</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>10648</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>9214</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Methodist HEALTHCARE

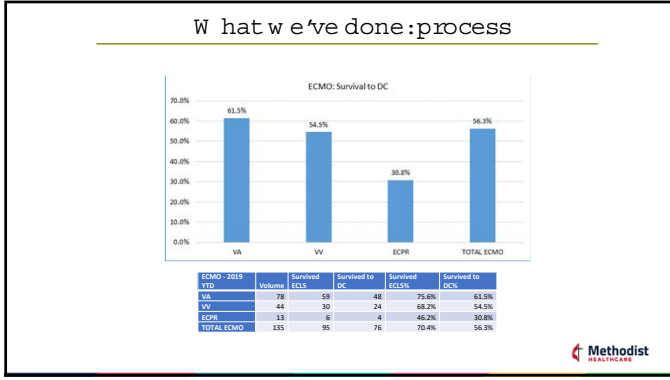
30



31



32



33

**Meeting the challenge**

- Active waitlist management
  - Pre-selection committee meeting
  - Waitlist management meeting
  - Weekly Transplant Selection Committee
- All cases on support rounded on daily by interdisciplinary team
  - CV surgery, heart failure, critical care
  - Duration and complications of support continuously evaluated
- All operative cases undergo debrief (overseen by Quality)
- ECMO as "pop-off" valve
- Percutaneous LVAD as bridge to recovery or bridge to transplant

34

**Questions?**

michael.kwan@mhshealth.com

Methodist Moments

35