Update on the Development of a Transplant Donor Risk Index

Background

It was agreed by SaBTO members at the meeting on 9th March this year that work to quantify the risks associated with using marginal or 'higher risk' organs could be extremely useful, and encourage the use of organs not currently utilised. The proposal is supported by policy colleagues within the Department of Health who lead on policy relating to organ transplantation.

An initial meeting was held by telephone conference on 13th August to discuss the scope of the work and how it might be approached.

Next Steps

It was agreed that SaBTO should undertake work:

1. focussing on specific risks (eg encephalitis, MS) in detail, as was done for donors with cerebral tumours

2. looking at wider areas, either risks (eg obesity, smoking, diabetes, hypertension) or groups (drug users, commercial sex workers), and considering the resulting risks for specific organs.

These different approaches will require different timescales.

The prioritisation of work topics will be on the basis of where greatest benefit can be obtained, and will be informed by data from NHS Blood and Transplant on the number of organs refused because of perceived risks, and the nature of those risks; and the number of organs refused because of initial reactivity, not later confirmed.

SaBTO members are asked:

1. to confirm their support for the approach of different strands of work being undertaken on different timescales

2. to suggest topics that should be addressed.

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Secretariat
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