

UKITC

UK ISLET TRANSPLANT CONSORTIUM

UK has the world's first government-funded islet transplant service dedicated to patients with type 1 diabetes and recurrent severe hypoglycaemia. Since the year 2000, 54 islet transplants have been performed on 34 patients in the UK; and of these, 34 transplants have been performed over the past three years. An audit of islet transplant recipients from our seven UK centres (April 2008 - April 2011) showed that 96% of all transplants were functioning at one month, and this has been maintained long-term in the vast majority (>18 months follow-up so far). Severe hypoglycaemia was reduced by >95%; HbA_{1c} was reduced from 66 mmol/mol (8.2%) to 51 mmol/mol (6.8%) and overall insulin requirement was halved. In addition, significant numbers of patients are becoming insulin-independent.

Referral criteria

The following patients with type 1 diabetes **might be suitable**: Those with:

- two or more episodes of severe hypoglycaemia (requiring other people to help) within last 2 years
- impaired awareness of hypoglycaemia
- severe hypoglycaemia/impaired awareness who have a functioning kidney transplant

Ideally we like patients to have had a prior trial of insulin pump therapy, and we can arrange this if necessary. However, we are happy to assess any patient who is unsuitable, or has strong views against a trial of pump therapy.

The following patients are **probably not suitable**: Those who:

- require >0.7 units/kg/day of insulin (~50 units/day for a 70 kg patient)
- weigh more than 85 kg
- have poor kidney function (in general this means a GFR <60 ml/min)

These criteria are flexible and the overall risks and benefits for individual patients should be taken into consideration. If you are unsure whether your patient might be suitable then the clinical lead at one of the UK Islet Transplant Consortium centres (below) can be contacted.

Where to refer

There are six islet cell transplant centres in England and one in Scotland:

- **Bristol:** Dr Richard Smith, Richard Bright Renal Unit, Southmead Hospital, Southmead Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, BS10 5NB. Richard.Smith@bristol.ac.uk Tel: 0117 3235434
- **Edinburgh:** Mr John Casey, Transplant unit, Royal infirmary of Edinburgh, 51 Little France Crescent, Old Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh, EH16 4SA. jcasey@staffmail.ed.ac.uk Tel: 0131 242 1714
- **London:** Dr Pratik Choudhary, Department of Diabetes, Kings College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, Greater London SE5 9RS. pratik.choudhary@nhs.net Tel: 020 7848 5651
- **London:** Dr Miranda Rosenthal, Diabetes Department, Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, London, NW3 2QG. miranda.rosenthal@nhs.net Tel: 020707794 0500 x 33325
- **Manchester:** Dr Martin Rutter, Manchester Diabetes Centre, 193 Hathersage Road, Manchester, M13 0JE. martin.rutter@cmft.nhs.uk Tel: 0161 276 6709
- **Newcastle:** Prof James Shaw, Institute of Transplantation, Freeman Hospital, Freeman Road, High Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7DN. Jim.Shaw@newcastle.ac.uk Tel: 0191 222 7019 / 8129
- **Oxford:** Prof Paul Johnson, Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences, Level 6, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Headington, Oxford, OX3 9DU. paul.johnson@nds.ox.ac.uk Tel: 01865 221291