

THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF FINANCIAL INCENTIVES ON PARTICIPATION OF DIRECTED COMPATIBLE LIVING DONORS IN KPD

Elizabeth Hendren¹, Jagbir Gill¹, David Landsberg¹, Caren Rose¹, John S. Gill¹
¹University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

BACKGROUND: The use of financial incentives to encourage medically suitable compatible donors already approved for directed donation, to participate in KPD may be a non-coercive strategy to increase transplants. To inform this strategy we surveyed previous living donors and recipients regarding their willingness to participate in KPD with and without financial incentives.

METHODS: An anonymous survey was mailed to previous directed donors and recipients in our program between 2001-2009.

RESULTS: 93% (78/86) of donors and 95% (35/38) of recipients indicated that they would have participated in KPD had it been offered at the time of their transplant. The table shows the proportion of donors and recipients who would be more willing to participate in KPD with the provision of different types of financial incentives.

The survey also identified non-financial considerations that would limit participation including: delays in transplantation >3 months, inability to complete a preemptive transplant, or a requirement to travel. The potential to obtain a better donor kidney (younger donor, higher HLA match) was rated important by 87% of donors, while helping multiple recipients was important to 80% of donors. Irrespective of the amount offered, a direct cash reward did not increase willingness to participate in KPD.

CONCLUSIONS: We conclude that >90% of previous directed donors and their recipients reported a willingness to participate in KPD if they had been provided the opportunity. Reimbursements for travel and lost wages, but not direct cash rewards may increase participation, while delays in transplantation > 3 months may decrease participation of directed compatible donors in KPD.