

Improving Long-Term Outcomes for Pediatric Liver Transplantation: A Clinical Research Workshop

Summary

This summary will review the activities that took place on February 12, 2007 during the Office of Rare Diseases supported meeting on “Improving Long-Term Outcomes in Pediatric Liver Transplantation”. The organizers for this meeting were: John Bucuvalas-University of Cincinnati; Estella Alonso-Northwestern University; Jay Talwalkar-Mayo Clinic; John Magee-University of Michigan; Douglas Hanto-Harvard University; Edward Doo-NIDDK.

This one day meeting was convened at the Renaissance Hotel Washington, DC and 61 meeting participants attended. The aims of this meeting were to identify and address the research challenges that are currently encountered in the management of children who undergo liver transplantation. Convening this meeting on the topic of pediatric liver transplantation addressed a research priority in the previously published Trans-NIH Action Plan for Liver Disease Research (http://www2.niddk.nih.gov/AboutNIDDK/ResearchAndPlanning/Liver_Disease/Action_Plan_For_Liver_Disease_Intro.htm) under the Chapter on Liver Transplantation.

The meeting consisted of five sessions. “Current Issues Confronting Long Term Survival after Pediatric Liver Transplantation” was the first session. Two speakers defined the incidence and outcomes of pediatric liver transplantation from different databases. The remaining two speakers categorized the medical complications associated with liver transplantation and liver graft complications after liver transplantation. The second session was entitled, “Long Term Immunosuppression after pediatric liver transplantation” which surveyed the use of immunosuppression to preserve graft function, some of the immunological issues related to pediatric liver transplantation and the challenges in measuring immunosuppression. The third session, “Long term medical complications” reviewed current databases and obtained expert opinion regarding the prevalence of specific medical complications that are associated with diminished survival after liver transplantation. “Patient wellness issues after liver transplantation” was the fourth session. The speakers in this session addressed the unique issues of liver transplantation in a pediatric population and focused on issues such as growth and development, adolescent issues, and behavioral issues. The last session of the meeting was an open session that promoted interaction between the meeting organizers and the audience in order to identify the current research challenges and to make recommendations for research priorities in pediatric liver transplantation.

The organizers are currently writing a summary manuscript of the meeting that will be submitted for publication. The meeting website can be accessed at: <http://www.niddk.nih.gov/fund/other/pedliver07/index.htm>.