

Donors after circulatory death or Non-heart-beating Asystolic or donors after cardiac death



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Objects

Introduction

- Types of organ donors
- Introduction
- The process of controlled DCD
- Definitions of terms in the process of controlled DCD
- Pathway for the offering of DD kidneys in the UK
- Early Graft Dysfunction in Controlled DCD
- Unadjusted death-censored graft survival for DD kidney transplantation in the UK
- Factors Associated with Transplant Outcome in Recipients of DCD Kidneys
- Some Statistics from MESOT 2025

References

Types of Organ Donors

- DECEASED DONORS

- **Donation after Brain Death**

- Most donors (>70%)

- **Donation After Circulatory Death**

- < 30% of donors

...But this is changing. In 2024 65% of the livers at MCF have been from DCD donors

- LIVING DONORS

- Possibility of donor morbidity/mortality

- Not all people are candidates

Review Article

Korean J Transplant 2021;35:71-76
<https://doi.org/10.4285/kjt.21.0004>

References

Organ donation after controlled circulatory death (Maastricht classification III) following the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment in Korea: a suggested guideline

Hoonsung Park¹, Eun-Sil Jung², Jae-Sook Oh³, Yong-Min Lee³, Jae-Myeong Lee⁴

Received March 16, 2021

Revised April 7, 2021

Accepted April 17, 2021

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Definitions

Introduction

Criteria	Determination of death
Neurologic	Diagnosis & confirmation of death based on the irreversible cessation of functioning in the entire brain, including the brainstem
Circulatory	Diagnosis & confirmation of death based on the irreversible cessation of circulation followed by cardiac arrest, cardiocirculatory arrest, & respiratory arrest

Introduction

Introduction

- The US & European countries, including Spain & the UK, have been implementing DCD since **1980–2000**.
- According to a report published in 2019, DCD is being implemented in **18 of 37** European countries.
- In 2018, the proportion of DCD against overall donors increased by 28%, 19.9%, & 38.8% in Spain, the US, & the UK, respectively.



Circulatory Death and Organ Donation

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¹Sheffield Kidney Institute, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Sheffield, United Kingdom.

To address the global shortage of organs for transplantation, donors after circulatory death (DCD) are being increasingly utilised as an invaluable source of organs such as kidney, liver, heart, lungs and pancreas. DCDs are critically ill hospitalised patients, who do not fulfil the brain-stem death criteria and withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment (WLST) is considered because of expected futile outcomes of continued treatment.¹ The diagnosis of circulatory death is confirmed by the permanent absence of

in the operation theatre and awaiting circulatory arrest (asystole) to occur. Before death is confirmed, five minutes of observation is carried out after the asystole to confirm irreversible cardio-respiratory arrest, which is confirmed by the isoelectric line in the electrocardiogram tracing and the absence of blood pressure in the arterial line. The time allowed from WLST to asystole is accepted as 2 hours for the kidney and 1 hour for the liver and pancreas. This is extended to a further 2 hours for the kidney, and 30 minutes for

Introduction

Introduction

- The concept of DCD was introduced by Kootstra et al. in **Maastricht**, Netherlands. These donors are classified as:
 - **Uncontrolled donors:**
 - Category 1: brought in dead
 - Category 2: unsuccessful resuscitation
 - Category 5: cardiac arrest in a hospitalized patient
 - **Controlled donors:**
 - Category 3: awaiting cardiac arrest
 - Category 4: cardiac arrest after brain-stem death

Kidney donation after circulatory death (DCD): state of the art

Dominic M. Summers^{1,2}, Christopher J.E. Watson¹, Gavin J. Pettigrew¹, Rachel J. Johnson², David Collett², James M. Neuberger² and J. Andrew Bradley^{1,3}

¹Department of Surgery, School of Clinical Medicine, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK; ²Organ Donation and Transplantation, NHS Blood and Transplant, Bristol, UK and ³NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, UK

References

The use of kidneys from controlled donation after circulatory death (DCD) donors has the potential to markedly increase kidney transplants performed. However, this potential is not being realized because of concerns that DCD kidneys are inferior to those from donation after brain-death (DBD) donors. The United Kingdom has developed a large and successful controlled DCD kidney transplant program that has allowed for a substantial increase in kidney transplant

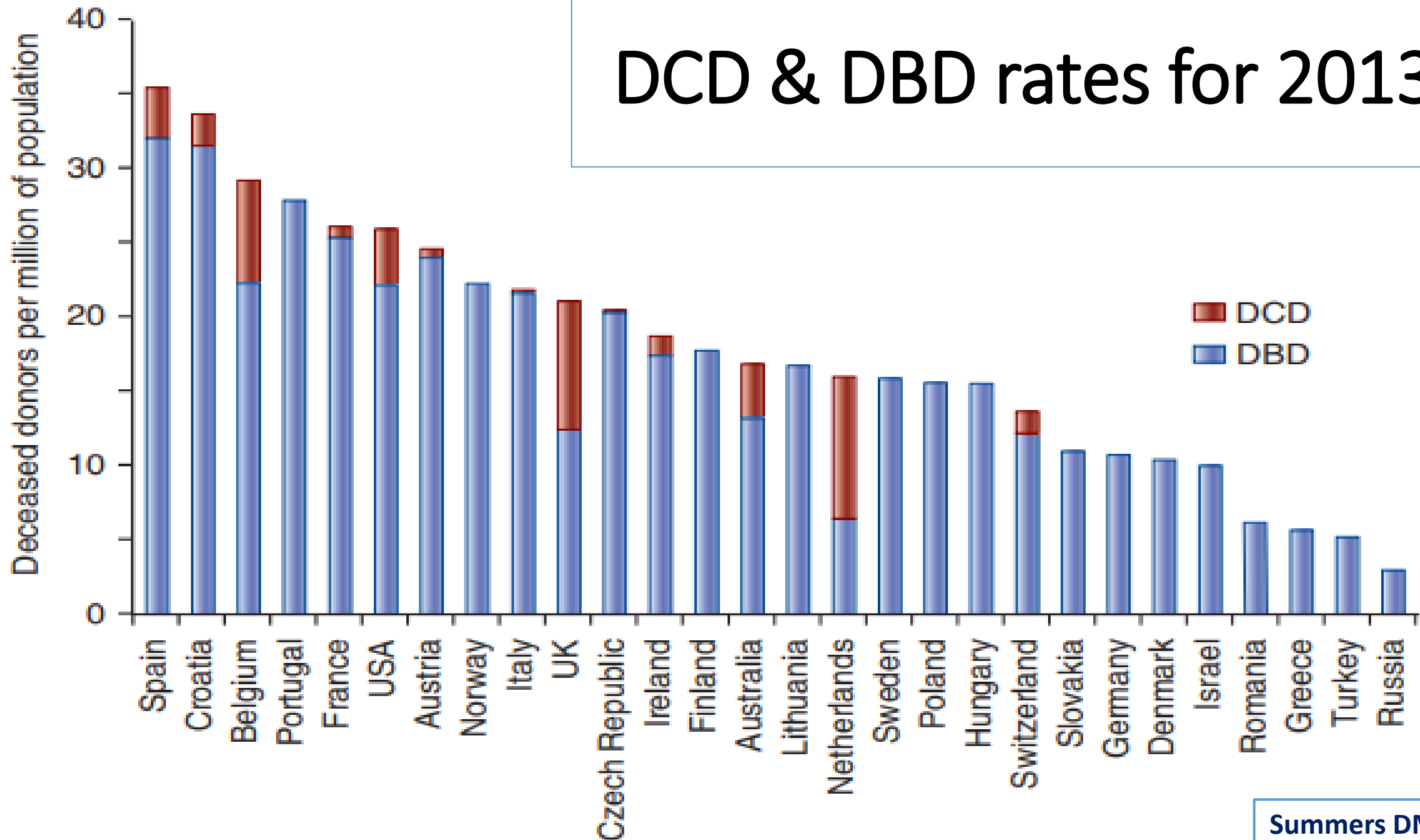
Kidney transplantation is the optimal treatment for selected patients with end-stage kidney failure, but the severe shortage of deceased donor kidneys for transplantation means that patients often have a long and uncertain wait for transplantation.^{1,2} In the United Kingdom, the average waiting time for a deceased donor kidney transplant is over 3 years, and 12% of listed patients die or are removed from the waiting list owing to ill health within 3 years of listing.³

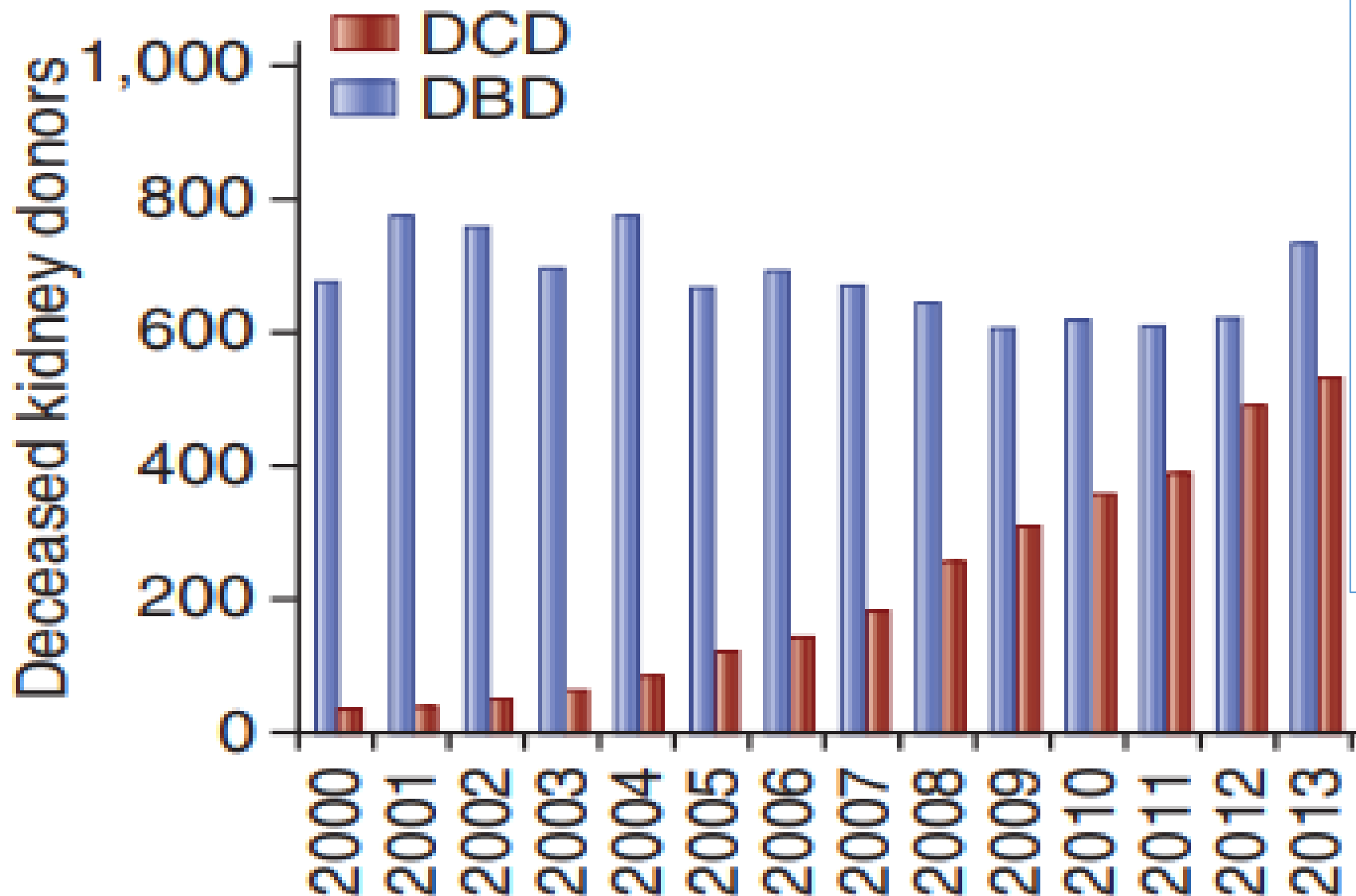
Introduction

Introduction

- In the UK, the average waiting time for a deceased donor KT is **over 3 years**.
- **12%** of listed patients die or are removed from the waiting list owing to ill health within 3 years of listing.

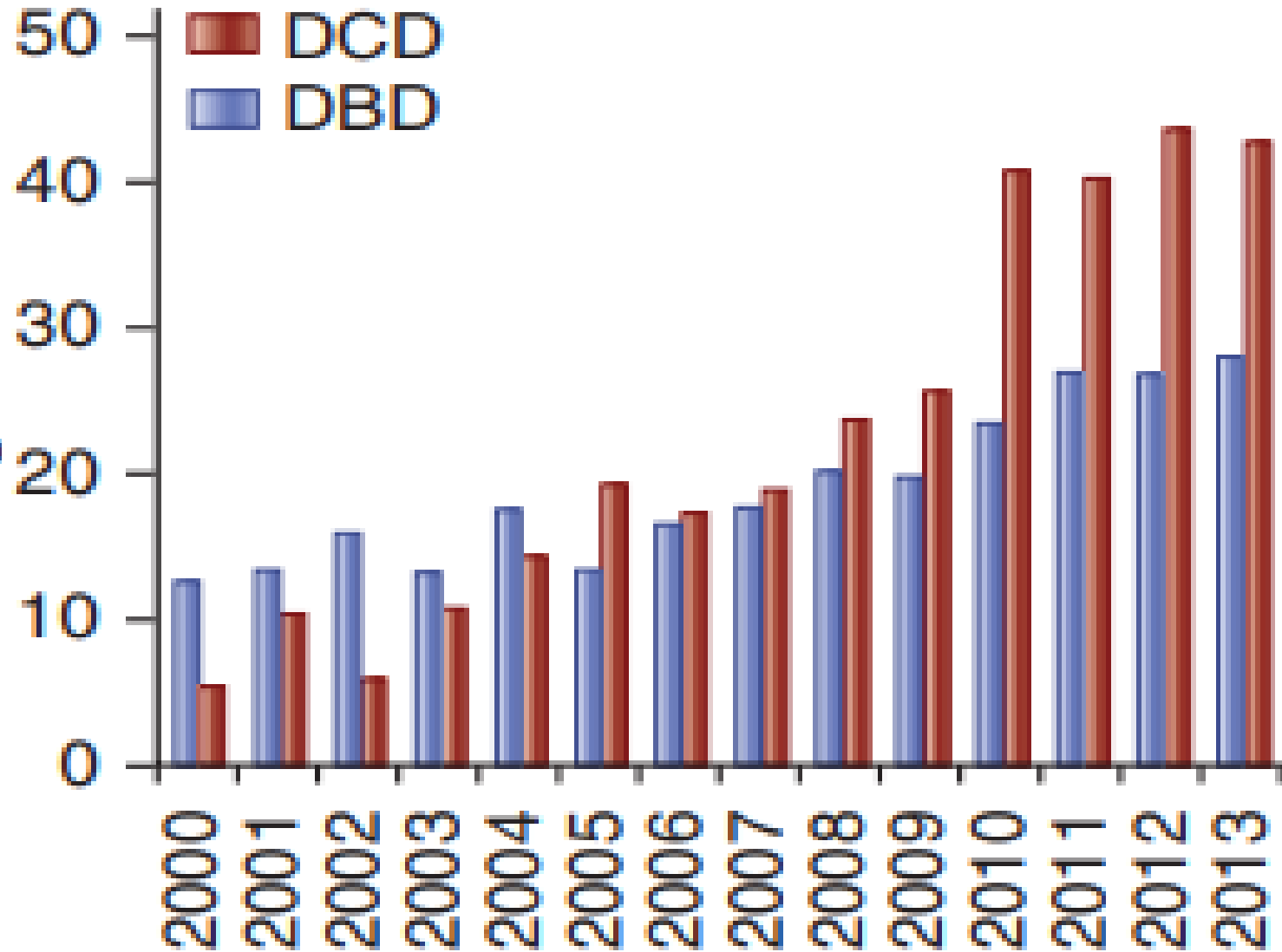
DCD & DBD rates for 2013



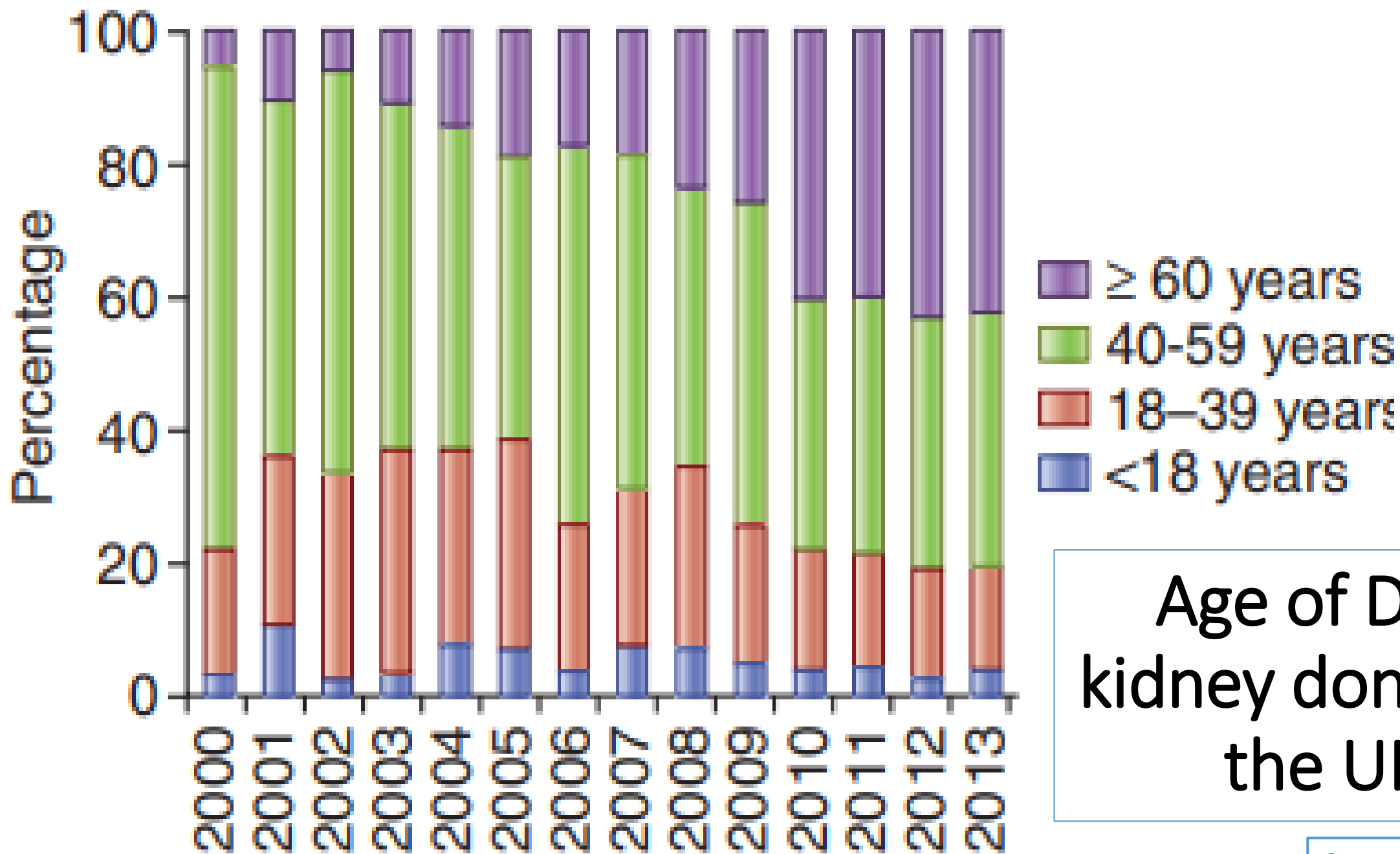
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Annual number of deceased kidney donors in the UK from 2000 to 2013, highlighting the progressive increase in DCD numbers

Percentage of deceased kidney donors categorized as ECD



Proportion of deceased kidney donors (DBD & DCD) that fulfill the criteria for extended criteria donors (ECD)

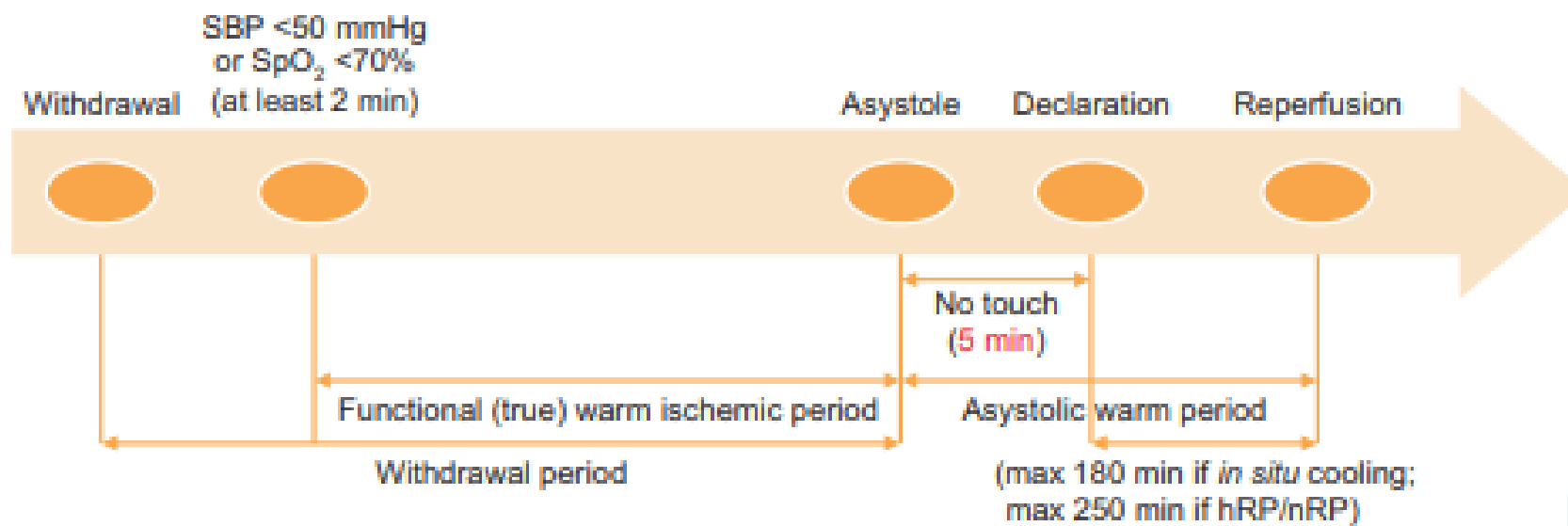


Age of DCD
kidney donors in
the UK

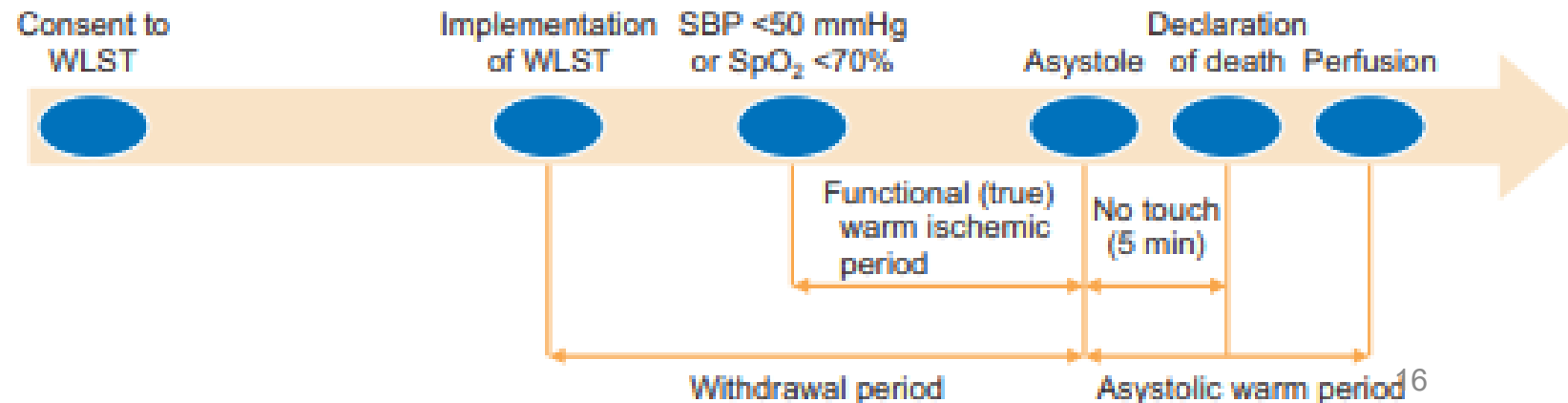
Introduction

Introduction

- Countries like the UK & Australia focus principally on controlled DCD
- France, Spain & the Netherlands utilize both uncontrolled & controlled DCD donors.



The process of controlled DCD



Definitions of terms in the process of controlled DCD

1. **No flow time:** time from cardiac arrest to start of CPR
2. **Total warm ischemic time**
 - **Uncontrolled:** from the time of the cardiac arrest to the start of preservation for sustaining organ function. Within a maximum of 150 min
 - **Controlled:** from the time of WLST to the start of perfusion (withdrawal period+asystolic warm period)
3. **Withdrawal period, agonal period :** from the time of WLST to asystole

Definitions of terms in the process of controlled DCD

4. **Functional (true) warm ischemic period:** after the implementation of WLST, from the time that one of the 2 conditions below is met to asystole.

(1) Systolic BP <50

(2) Peripheral oxygen saturation < 70%

5. **Asystole** : under invasive arterial BP monitoring, the time that the pulse wave was lost. If invasive arterial BP monitoring is unavailable, the first time that the heart rate shows “zero” on an ECG can be used.

Definitions of terms in the process of controlled DCD

- 6. **No touch time**: from asystole, the time to observe self-resuscitation of the heart without any treatment for 5 min
- 7. **Asystolic warm period**, primary warm ischemic time: time from asystole to the start of perfusion
- 8. **Declaration of death** : take 5 min of no touch time after asystole. Then, a declaration of death can be made.
- 9. **Preservation time** : from the time when preservation was started to sustain organ function until organ procurement.

WLSTs for Organ Donation

- WLST can be implemented in an ICU or **OR**.
- Before implementation, the operative field must be sterilized & draped.
- For **anticoagulation**, 20,000–30,000 IU (400 IU/kg) IV heparin.
- After WLST implementation, the patients' clinical status should be checked, including HR, BP, RR, & O2 saturation **per min**.

WLSTs for Organ Donation

- If cardiac arrest does not occur within **90 min** of WLST implementation, the donation process is halted, & the patient is transferred to the ICU.
- The functional warm ischemic time at which organic transplantation is possible:
 - **Liver: within 30 minutes**
 - **Pancreas: within 30 minutes**
 - **Lung: within 60 minutes**
 - **Kidney: within 60 minutes (120 min in UK)**

The Donation Process

- The time period deemed necessary from cessation of circulation to the start of organ procurement: **2 - 20 min.**
- In contrast to the USA, it is not permissible in the UK to heparinize the potential donor or to cannulate the femoral vessels before death.

The Donation Process

- After procurement, the majority (around **75%**) of DCD kidneys in the UK are subjected to **simple SCS**, & the remainder undergo cold pulsatile machine perfusion.



NRP Approaches for the procurement of abdominal organs

A-NRP

Intra-abdominal Cannulation



Pro:

Can do in most OPOs
Familiarity with anatomy

Con:

Bleeding
Speed is important
Harder in Obese patients

A-NRP

Peripheral Pre-Cannulation



Pro:

Quick to go on pump
No bleeding
Less stress

Con:

Most OPOs don't allow it
Takes more time up front

TA-NRP

Central Cannulation



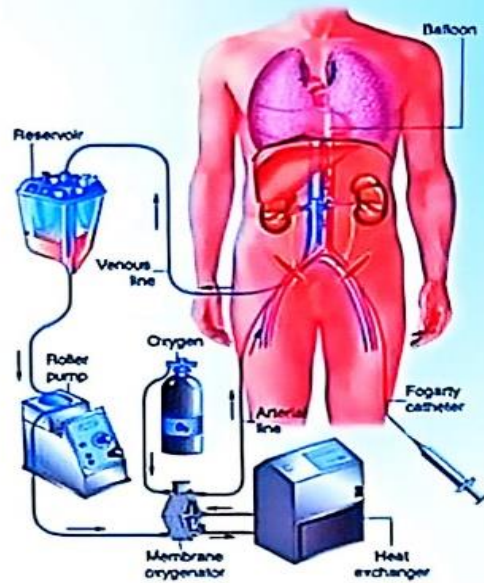
Pro:

Good for obese patients
Good for adhesion patients

Con:

Some OPOs don't allow it
Thoracic surgery?

NMP in Spain



In situ NRP



Ex situ NMP

Initial experience/single center
NRP and NMP in high-risk DCD donors,

A-NRP Equipment Setup

Oxygen and Air
hookup

Quantum
Transport
system by
Spectrum

Roller head for
sucker

Vacuum
regulator

Gas blender

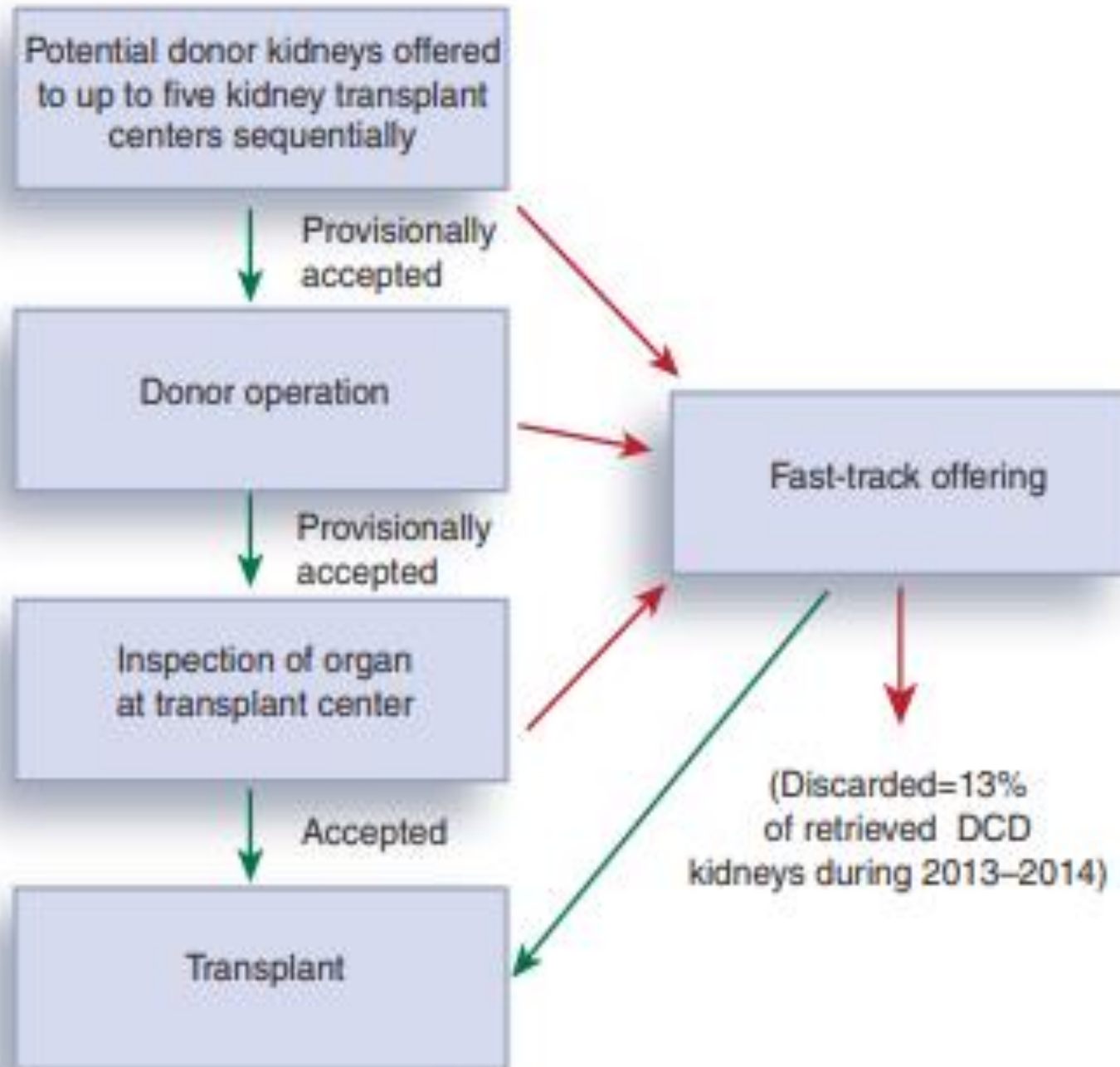
Blood reservoir

Oxygenator

Centrifugal
pump-head



Pathway for the offering of deceased donor kidneys in the UK



Allocation scheme for DCD kidneys

- One donor kidney is retained for local use & the paired kidney is shared within one of four UK regions.
- Shared kidneys are allocated according to an algorithm that takes into account:
 - **Recipient waiting time**
 - **Sensitization**
 - **HLA match**
 - **Donor–recipient age match.**

Allocation scheme for DCD kidneys

- Currently only kidneys from DCD donors under the age of 50 ys are shared & one kidney from all DCD donors is retained for local allocation.

Early Graft Dysfunction in Controlled DCD

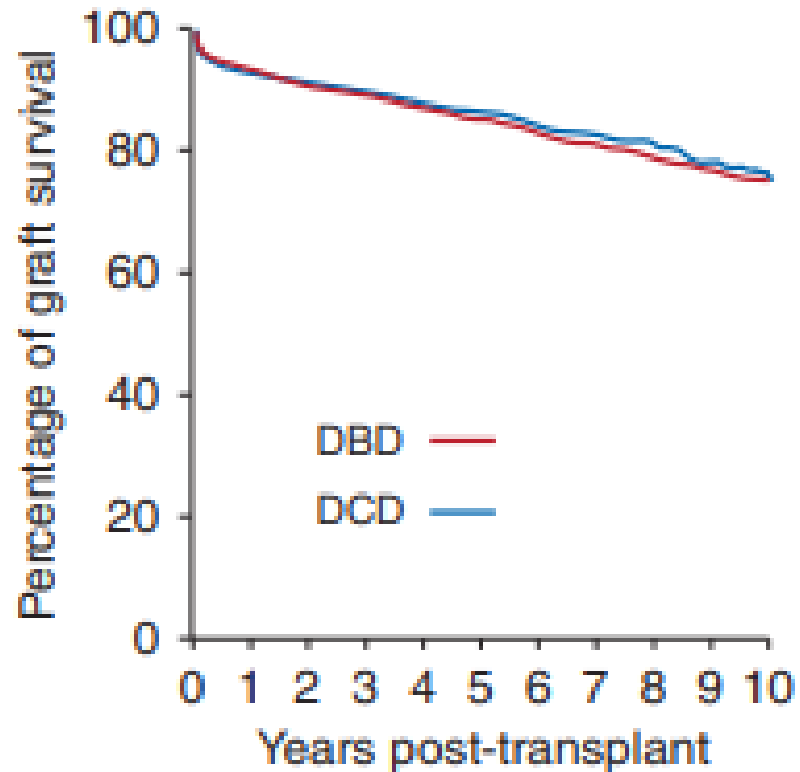
- Recipients of kidneys from controlled DCD have **twice** the risk of developing DGF compared with recipients of kidneys from DBD donors.
- In the UK is 49%, which is comparable to that reported in other countries.

Early Graft Dysfunction in Controlled DCD

- RCTS of **machine perfusion** for DCD kidneys have produced conflicting results with respect to DGF, & **none** have shown a beneficial effect on graft survival.
- It may be most apparent in a particular subgroup of DCD donor kidneys:
 - Those kidneys from older donors
 - Prolonged cold ischemic time

Unadjusted death-censored graft survival for DD kidney transplantation in the UK

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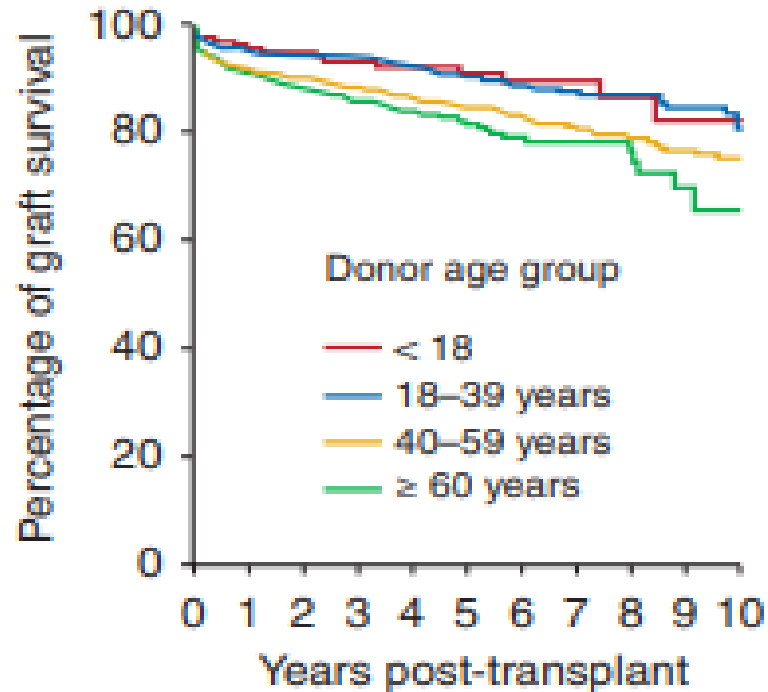


$P=0.31$

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
DBD	9,684	8,500	7,638	6,737	5,896	5,064	4,285	3,583	2,913	2,209	1,559
DCD	3,626	3,093	2,533	1,976	1,489	1,067	752	516	352	215	131

Unadjusted death-censored graft survival for DD kidney transplantation in the UK

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$P < 0.0001$

< 18 years

18–39 years

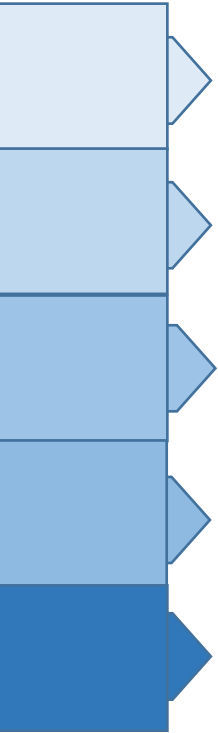
40–59 years

≥ 60 years

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
< 18 years	140	128	120	105	86	68	49	34	23	11	9
18–39 years	839	760	654	544	443	325	236	162	128	82	45
40–59 years	1,634	1,383	1,170	940	714	522	372	259	162	104	68
≥ 60 years	1,013	822	589	387	246	154	95	61	38	18	9

Factors Associated with Transplant Outcome in Recipients of DCD Kidneys

- **Donor age** (most important)
- Prolonged cold ischemic time (CIT)
- Hx of HTN
- Donor premortem serum cr
- Increased recipient age
- Primary cause of renal failure
- Increased HLA-mismatch grade



Selection of DCD Donor Kidneys

The most common reason for a center declining a kidney is because the donor is **too elderly**

Some Statistics from MESOT 2025



19th

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MESOT 2025

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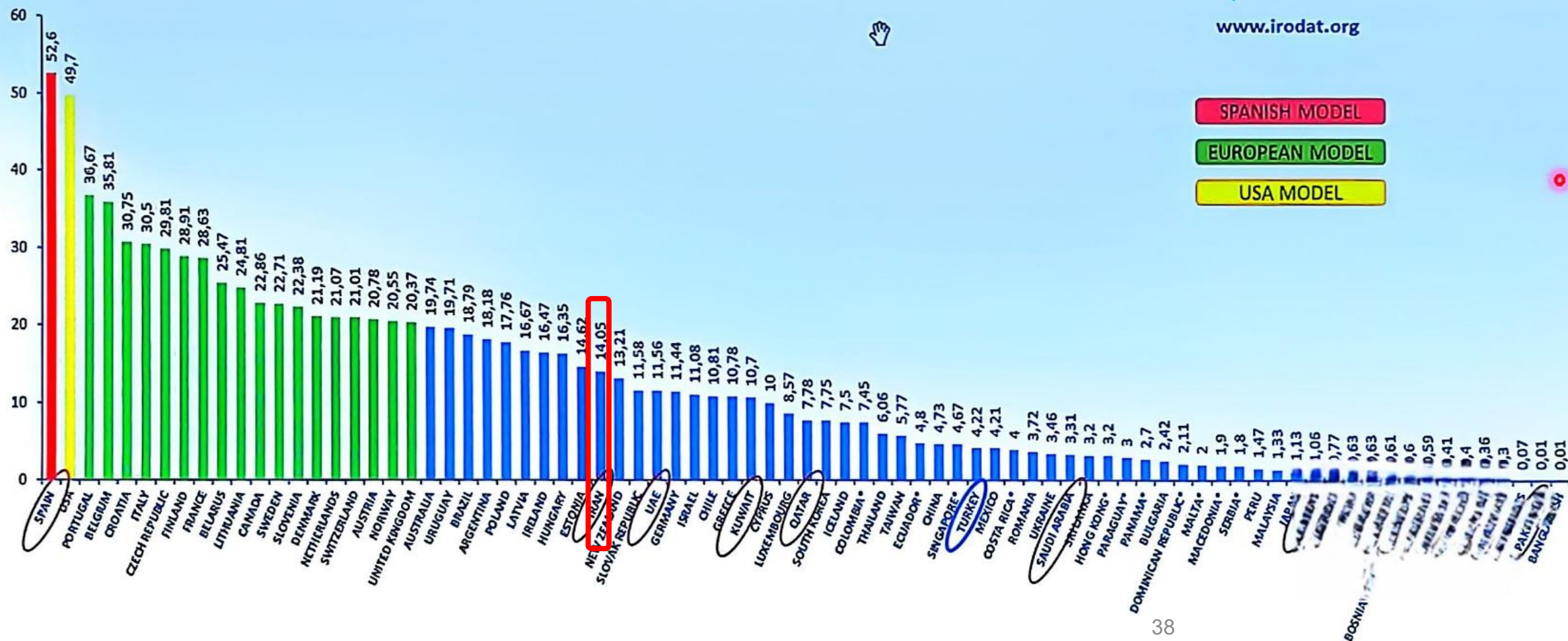
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WORLDWIDE DECEASED ORGAN DONORS 2024 (PMP)



www.irodat.org



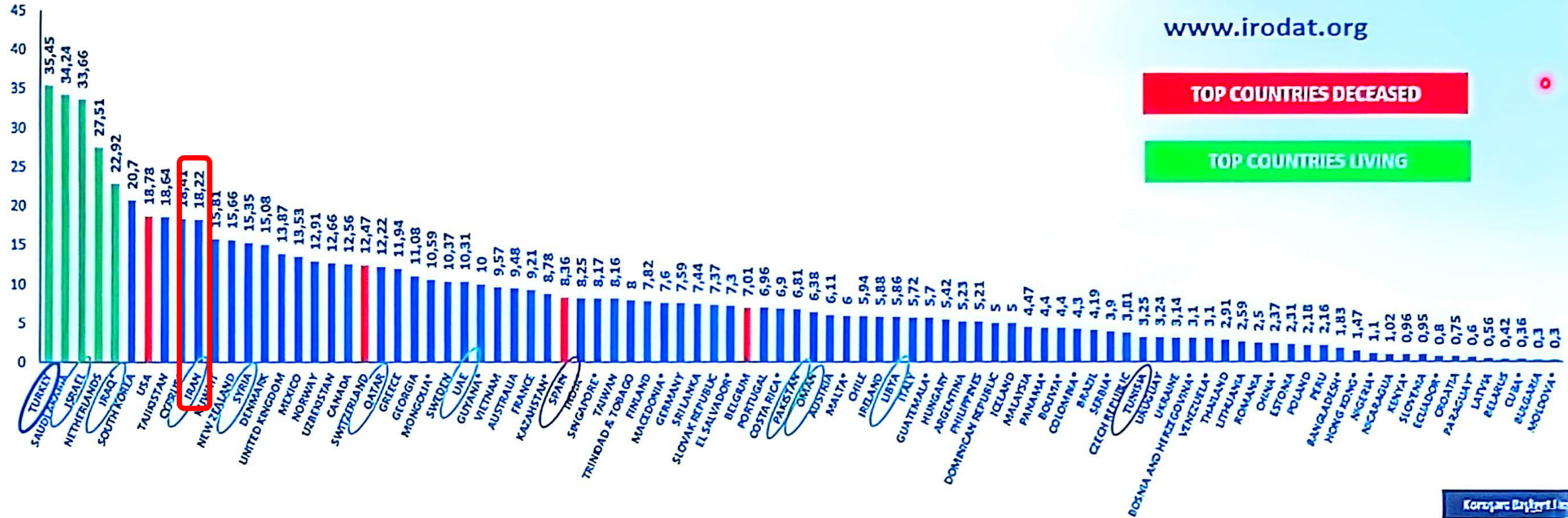
WORLDWIDE KIDNEY TRANSPLANT FROM LIVING DONOR 2024 (PMP)



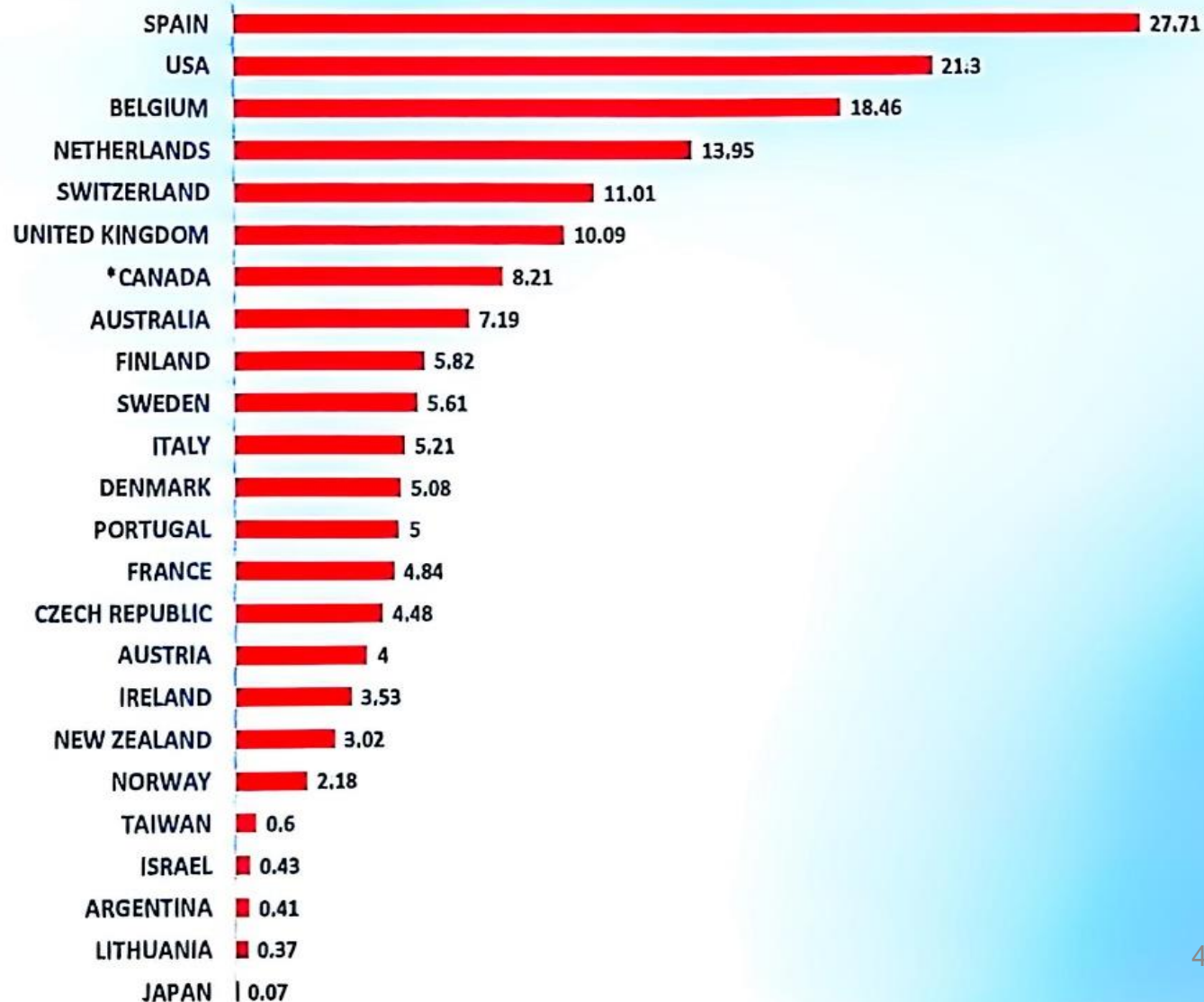
www.irodat.org

TOP COUNTRIES DECEASED

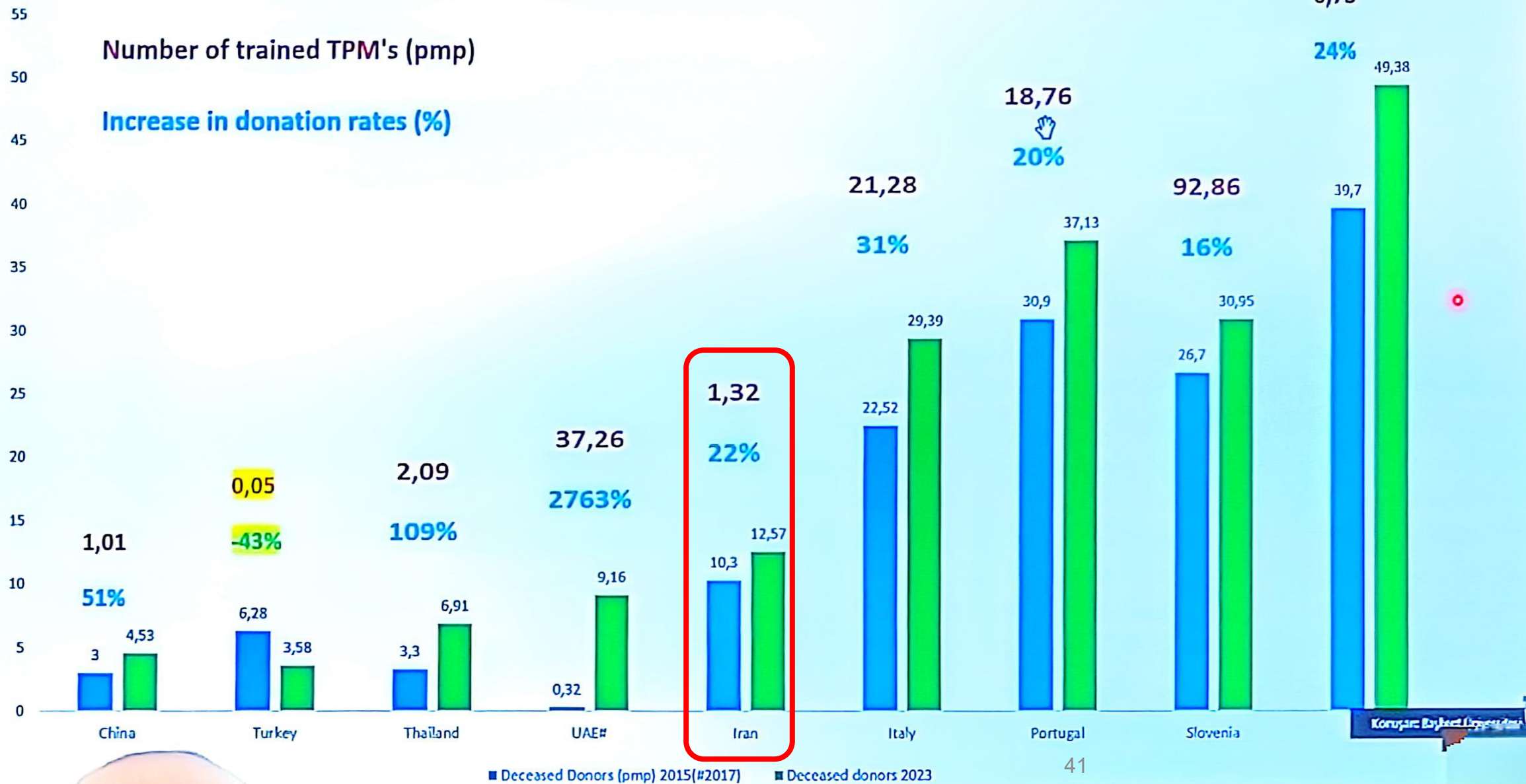
TOP COUNTRIES LIVING



**WORLDWIDE ACTUAL DONORS
AFTER CIRCULATORY DEATH RATE 2024 (PMP)**

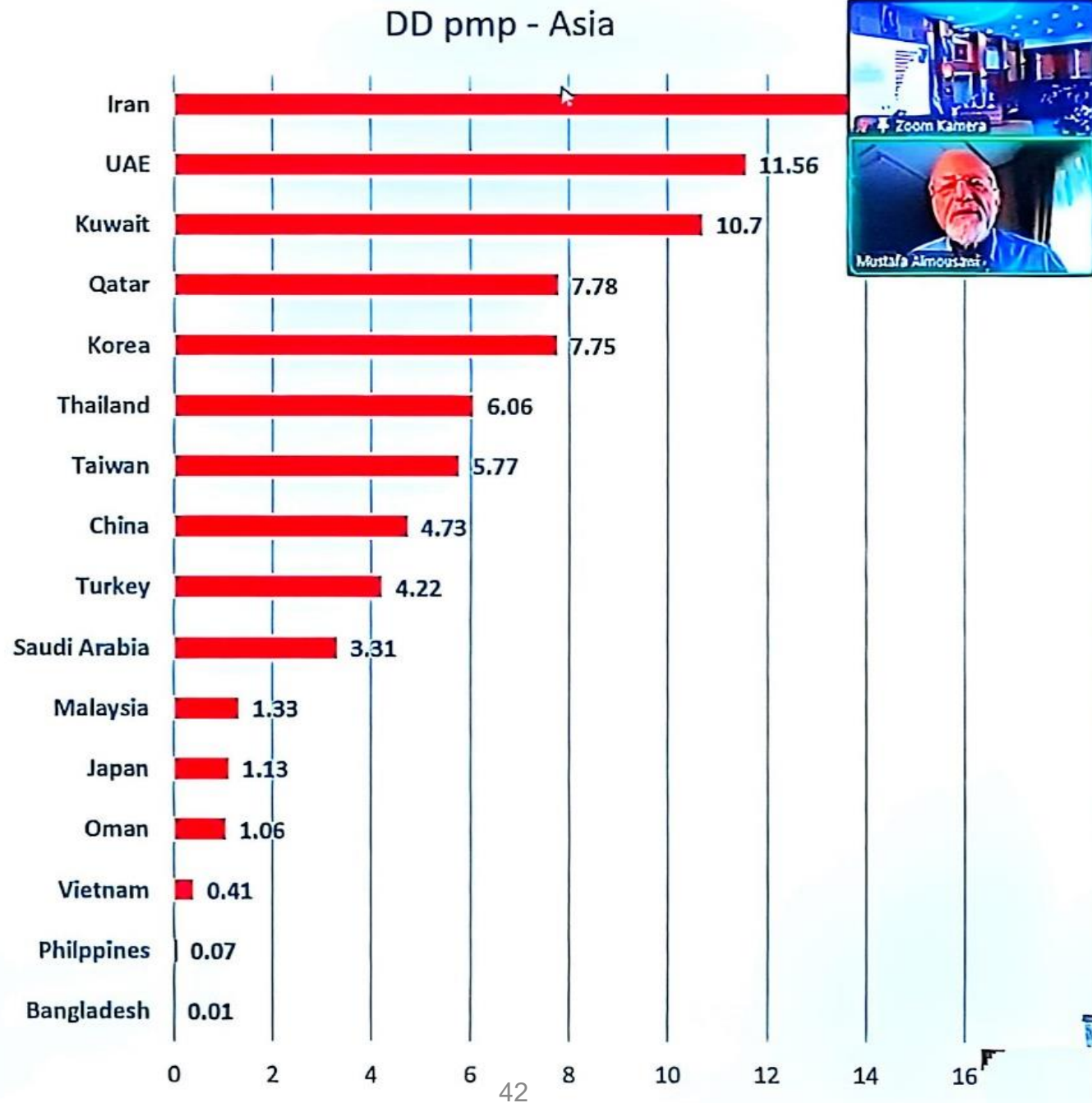


Actual deceased donors (pmp) from 2015 to 2023



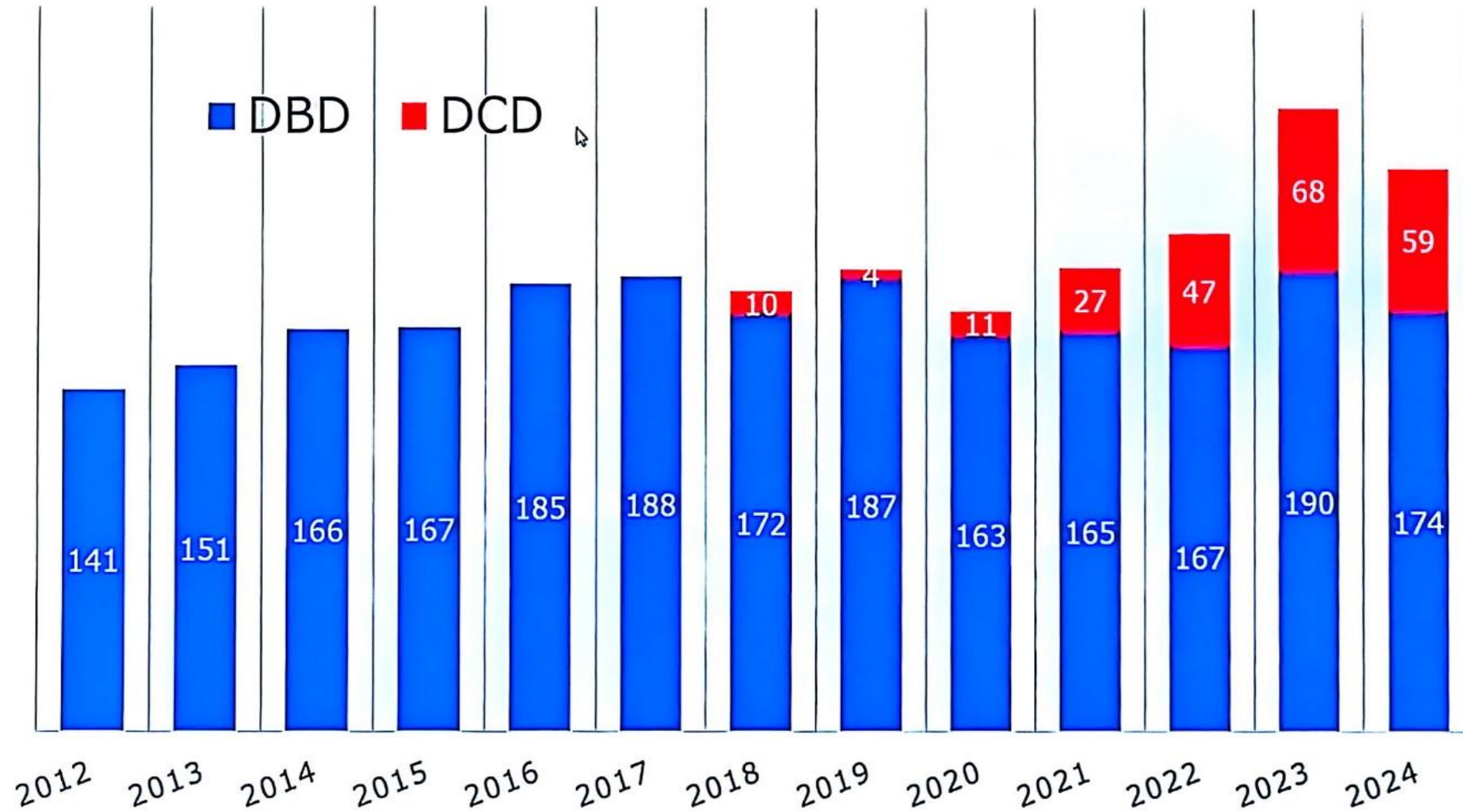
Asia

Actual Deceased Donors pmp 2024





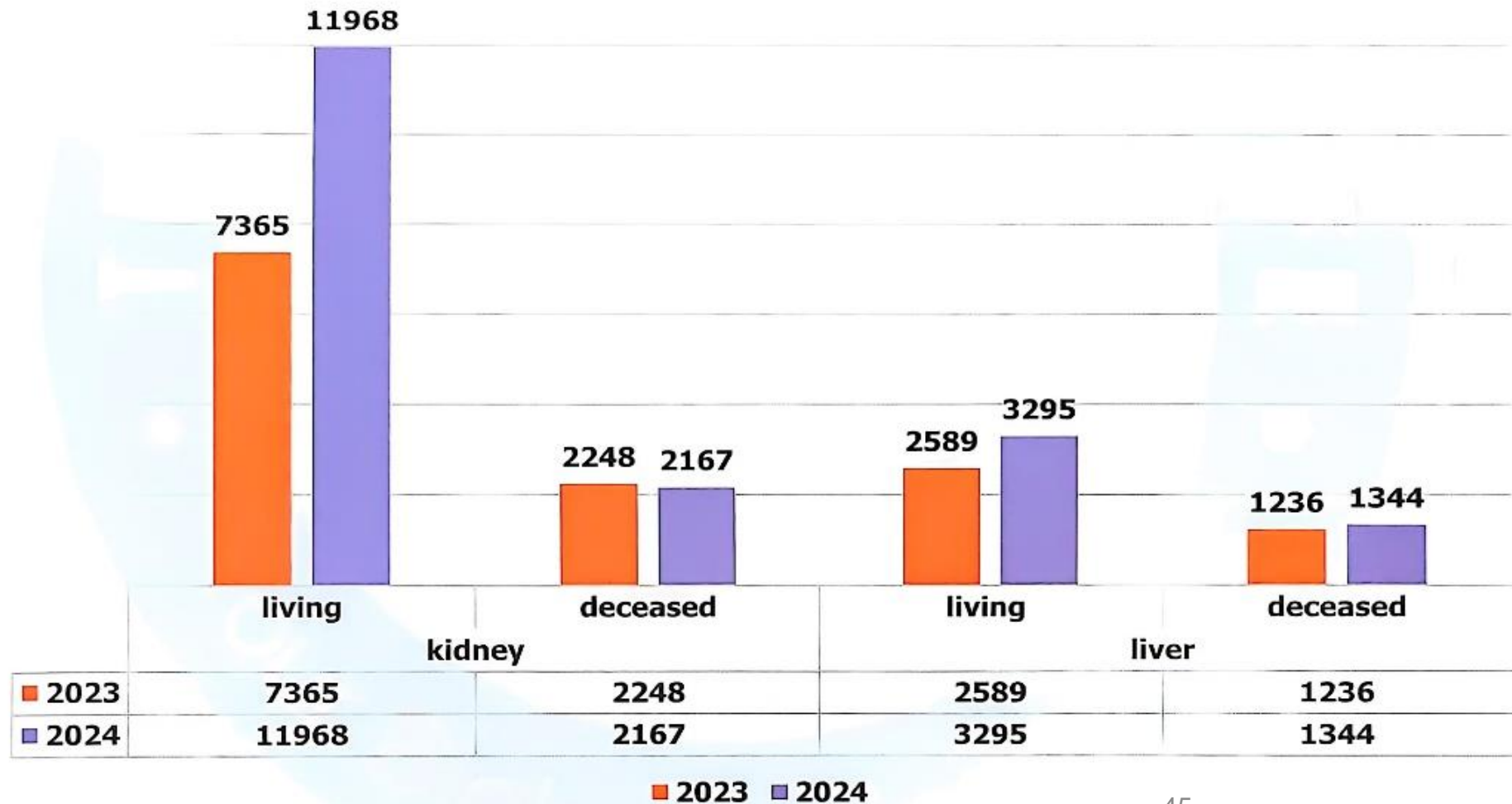
Deceased donors Sweden 2012-2024



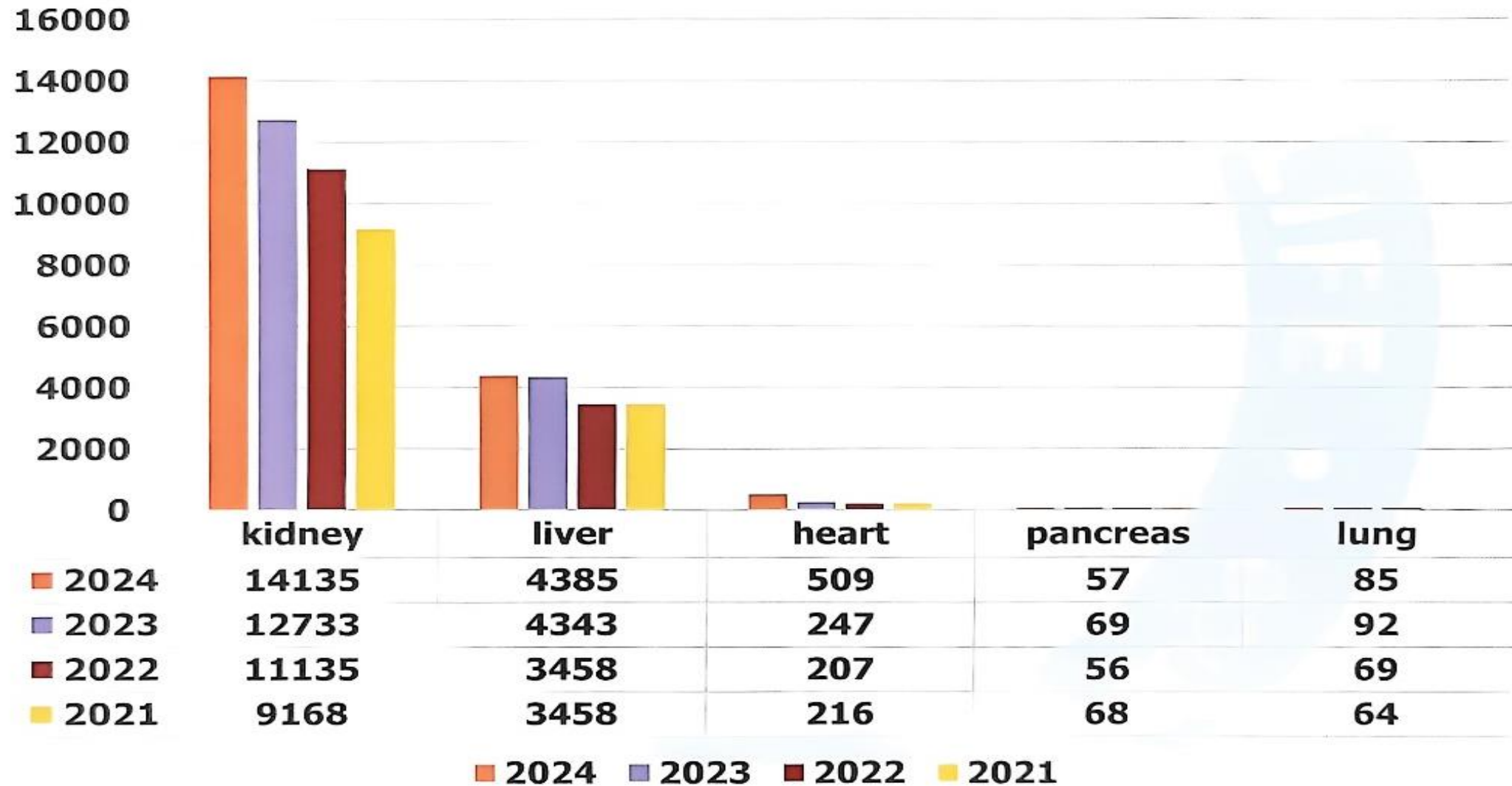
Overall data MESOT 2024

Country	Kidney		Liver		Pancreas	Heart	Lung
	Living	Deceased	Living	Deceased			
Algeria	166						
Egypt	1395	0	479	0			
Iran	1462	1636	86	898	39	111	8
Jordan	201	2		4			
Syria	373						
Kuwait	68	80				2	
Lebanon	60	3		1		1	
Libya	41						
Oman	30	10	7	2			
Pakistan	1669		681				
KSA	1284	203	101	422	15	40	34
Qatar	33	29		12			1
UAE	99	190	3	131	2	7	22
Tunisia	41	14	2	4		5	
Turkey	3121	347	1543	188	1	43	18
Iraq	1500						
uzpakistan	452		72				

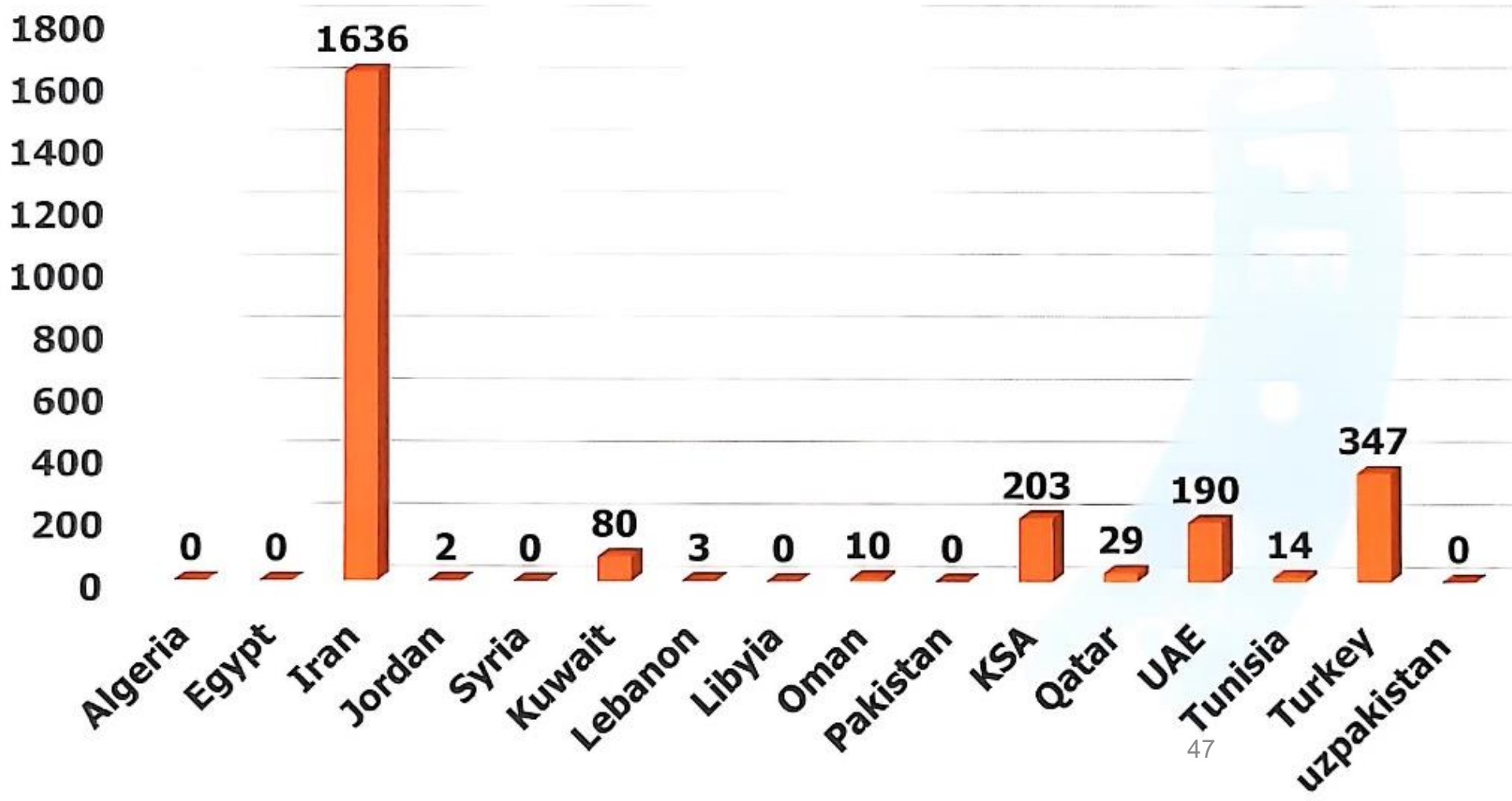
Living vs deceased



4 years data in MESOT



Deceased Kidney Transplant in MESOT 2024





Kidney transplantation as pre-emptive or non pre-emptive; which has improved survival in recipients?

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Background:

Conflicting results exist regarding survival outcomes in pre-emptive versus non-pre-emptive kidney transplant recipients. This study aimed to assess the risk of mortality and immunosuppressive regimen modifications in pre-emptive and non-pre-emptive kidney transplant patients and their impact on final clinical outcomes.

Methods:

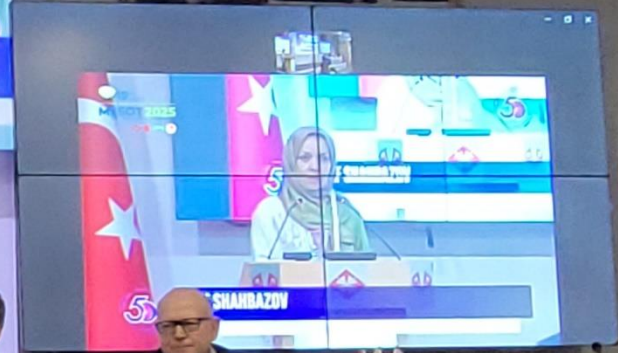
Retrospective cohort study included 667 end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients who received kidney transplantation between 1996 and 2013 in referral transplantation centers in Isfahan province. Among them, 499 patients had pre-emptive kidney transplantation (non-pre-emptive), while 168 had not (pre-emptive). Demographic, anthropometric, and clinical data, including immunosuppressive regimen changes and post-transplant outcomes, were collected.

Results:

The mean age of patients was 55.47 ± 15.53 years in the pre-emptive group and 54.87 ± 14.69 years in the non-pre-emptive group ($P=0.65$). The follow-up duration was significantly longer in non-pre-emptive patients (11.49 ± 6.28 years) than in pre-emptive patients (8.76 ± 5.13 years) ($P<0.001$). Mortality rates were $24.44/1000$ person-years for pre-emptive and $18.25/1000$ person-years for non-pre-emptive patients ($P=0.013$). Cox regression analysis showed a higher crude mortality risk in pre-emptive patients ($HR=1.59$; 95% CI: 1.09-2.33; $P=0.015$), but this association became insignificant after adjusting for confounders ($HR=1.35$; 95% CI: 0.92-1.99; $P=0.12$). Immunosuppressive regimen modifications were observed in 418 patients, occurring more frequently in non-pre-emptive patients (64.9%) than in pre-emptive patients (55.9%) ($P=0.04$). However, no significant difference was found in final clinical outcomes, including graft function, mortality, dialysis dependency, or re-transplantation ($P>0.05$). Kaplan-Meier analysis revealed a significantly higher survival rate in non-pre-emptive patients with immunosuppressive regimen modifications ($P=0.003$), whereas no difference was observed in patients without regimen modifications ($P=0.35$).

Conclusion:

Our findings suggest that pre-emptive kidney transplantation does not independently increase mortality risk. Additionally, immunosuppressive regimen modifications were more common in non-pre-emptive patients, partially contributing to their higher survival rates. Further prospective studies are needed.



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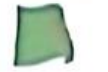
KIZILCAHAN AH PATALYA THERMAL RESORT HOTEL ANKARA TÜRKİYE NOVEMBER 4-7



575 PARTICIPANTS FROM 41 COUNTRIES



ALBANIA



ALGERIA



ARGENTINA



AUSTRALIA



AZERBAIJAN



BANGLADESH



CANADA



COSTA RICA



EGYPT



GERMANY



GREECE



INDIA



IRAN



IRAQ



ITALY



JORDAN



KAZAKHSTAN



KSA



KUWAIT



KYRGYZSTAN



LEBANON



LIBYA



MEXICO



NIGERIA



OMAN



PAKISTAN



PALESTINE



PHILIPPINES



PORTUGAL



RUSSIAN FEDERATION



SPAIN



SWEDEN



SWITZERLAND



SYRIA



THE NETHERLANDS



TUNISIA



TÜRKİYE



UAE



UK



USA



UZBEKISTAN