



PREFACE

Organ Donation in Belgium 2011: The Highest Donation Rate Ever

THIS issue of *Transplantation Proceedings* contains the Proceedings of selected studies presented at the 19th Annual Belgian Transplantation Society (BTS) meeting held on March 29th, 2012 in Brussels. In addition to the scientific program, the BTS annual meeting reviewed the trends of donation from 1990 to date. In 2011, 617 potential deceased individuals were referred to Belgian transplantation centers with 52.2% becoming effective organ donors, ($n = 322$; 29 p.m.p.). Their mean age was 51.5 years (range: 4 month–83 years). This was the highest donation rate ever seen in Belgium. Medical contraindications constituted the major reason for non-procurement in 31.1% (33.6% in 2010) of cases, whereas we recorded a stable trend of family refusal accounting for 12% of cases. The Belgian national demographic registry showed an increased trend (+19%) with respect to the prior year in favor of organ donation (opting-out system), suggesting positive effects of recent governmental information campaigns, mostly through transplant coordinator public activities. The evolution of the deceased organ donation in Belgium from 1990 to 2011 is shown in Fig 1. Donation after cardio-circulatory death (DCD) again showed an increase with respect to 2010, representing 22.9% of the total deceased organ donor pool (Fig 2). The average number of organs/donor was 3.38 in case of HBD and 2.74 for DCD with 69% of all donors identified in peripheral collaborative hospitals ver-

sus 31% in university hospitals. Globally, 437 kidneys, 232 whole livers, 7 split livers, 51 pancreas, 73 hearts, 95 double lungs and 13 single lungs were procured and transplanted, including 11 combined kidney-pancreas, 9 kidney-liver, 6 kidney-heart and 3 heart-lung transplants. Living donor liver transplantations increased to 37 and living donor kidney transplants were stable at 43/y (Fig 3). The consequence of the significant increase in the organ donor pool was a trends to a lower mortality on the waiting list ever in Belgium ($n = 66$, –36%).

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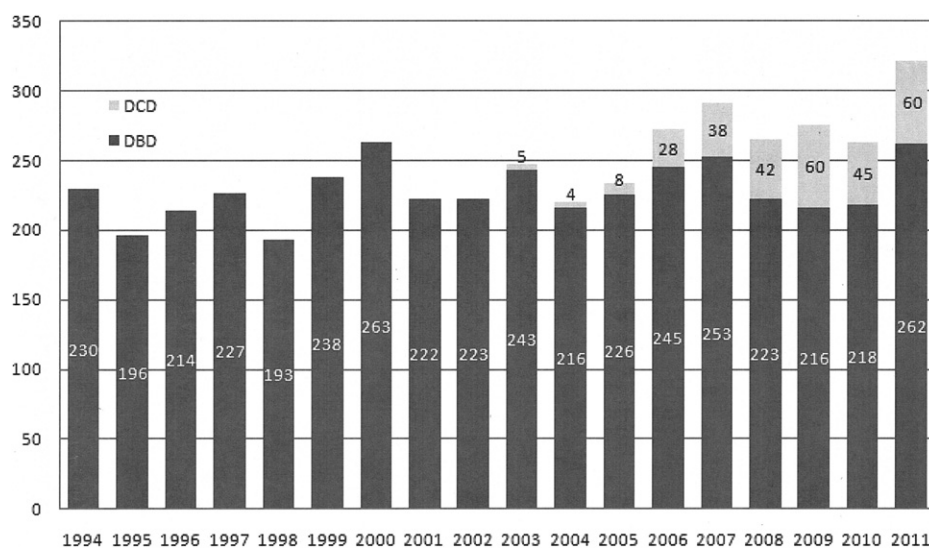


Fig 1. Evolution of the number of effective deceased organ donors in Belgium (1994–2011).

