

# Current strategies in organ allocation

## Lung transplantation

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Medical Department  
Organización Nacional de Trasplantes

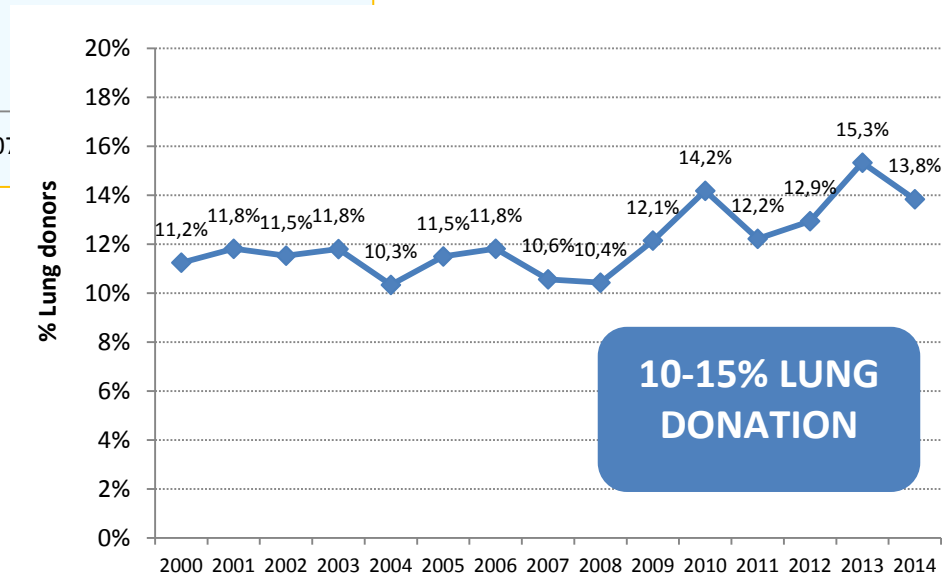
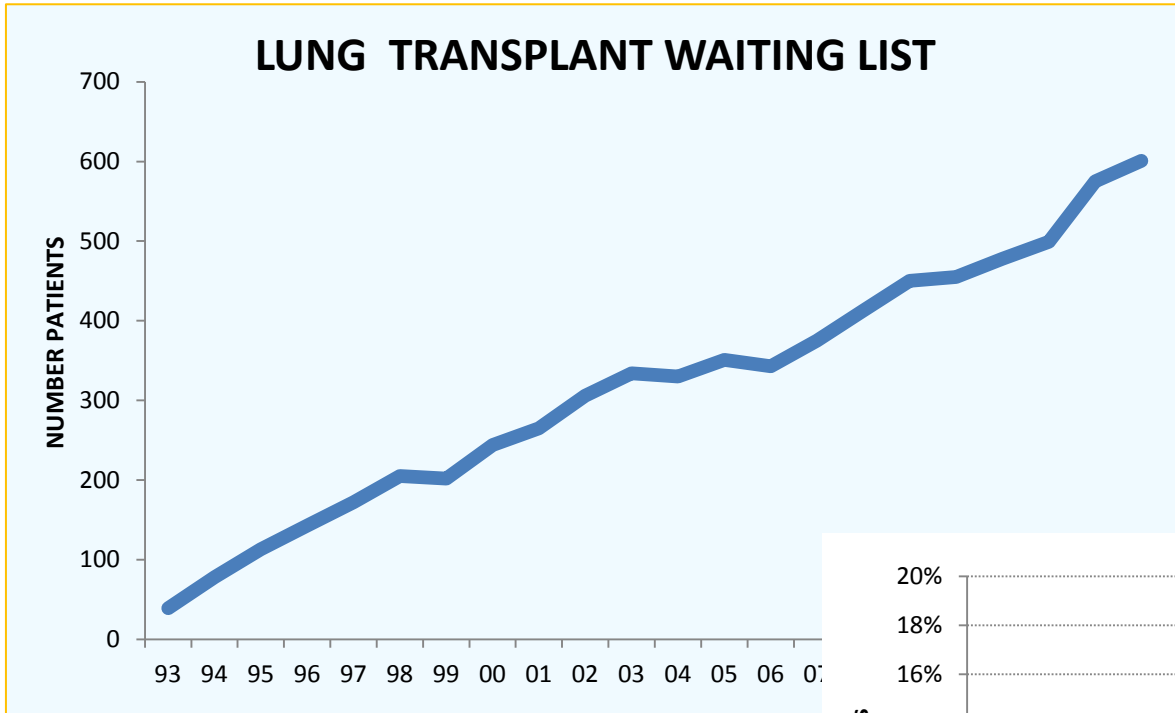
  
SOCIETAT  
CATALANA DE  
TRASPLANTAMENT

**13**

**CONGRESO  
BARCELONA**

18-20 MARZO 2015

# SCARCITY OF ORGANS

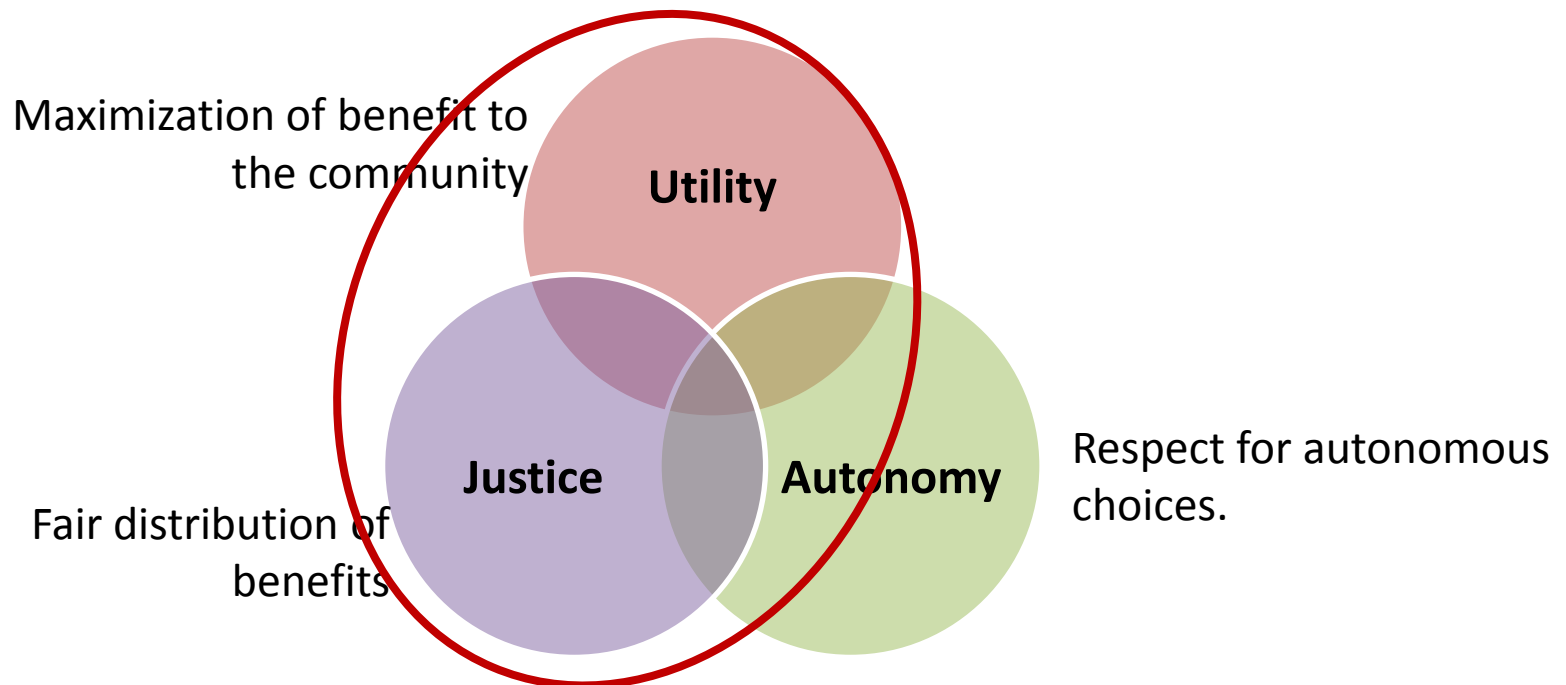


**10-15% LUNG DONATION**



## GENERAL ASPECTS ALLOCATION CRITERIA

- ✓ They need to be **general** enough to apply to a wide range of decisions and **simple** enough to be easily understood.
- ✓ The principles provide a **general framework** for local, regional, and national policy decisions related to allocating organs, **they do not necessarily reflect the personal ethical positions of individual.**



## DIFFERENT APPROACHES

1. Waiting time
2. Urgency/Clinical situation
3. Geography: IT/Economics
4. Expected outcomes



### CENTRE

Spain, UK, France, Italy



### INDIVIDUAL-LAS

USA, Eurotransplant,  
Germany, Netherlands

# LUNG ALLOCATION CRITERIA IN SPAIN

<http://www.ont.es/infesp/Paginas/CriteriosdeDistribucion.aspx>

ORGANIZACIÓN NACIONAL DE TRASPLANTES

ONT 25 años  
trabajando juntos por la vida

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Documentación  
Legislación  
Datos de Donación y Trasplante  
Tejidos, PH y Células  
Registros  
Programa de Garantía de Calidad en el proceso de donación  
Proyectos en Marcha  
Consejos Interterritoriales  
Cursos y Eventos

Criterios de Distribución

<input type="checkbox"/>	Tipo	Título
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Grupo Sanguineo en Donantes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Criterios distribución Hígado 2014
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Criterios distribución Pancreas 2014
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Criterios distribución Pulmón 2014
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Criterios de distribución Corazón 2014

CLINICAL CRITERIA:  
PRIORITY

GEOGRAPHICAL  
CRITERIA

ANNUAL REVISION  
TRANSPLANTATION TEAMS

MINISTERIO DE SANIDAD, SERVICIOS SOCIALES E IGUALDAD

ORGANIZACIÓN NACIONAL DE TRASPLANTES

CRITERIOS DE DISTRIBUCIÓN 2014

**TRASPLANTE PULMONAR**

**1. CRITERIOS CLÍNICOS**

**1.1. PACIENTES PRIORIZADOS**

**Incluye:**

- Pacientes en situación de riesgo vital.
- Aquellos receptores infantiles que superen la mediana de tiempo en lista de espera electiva del año anterior (172 días) pueden optar a un trasplante pulmonar por la vía de Prioridad Nacional, con cualquier donante con características antropométricas y de edad marcadas por su equipo de trasplante.
- Aquellos receptores infantiles posibles candidatos a trasplante lobar procedente de donante adulto pueden optar a un trasplante pulmonar por la vía de Prioridad Nacional, con cualquier donante menor de 40 años con las características antropométricas y de edad marcadas por su equipo de trasplante.

**Implica:**

- Los equipos de trasplante deben comunicar la solicitud de priorización por escrito, junto con un informe clínico, mediante el envío de un fax a la ONT y firmado por un responsable del equipo trasplantador. Los receptores priorizados por los criterios descritos en los párrafos b) y c) de la sección anterior no requerirán informe clínico.
- Compatibilidad:**  
Las ofertas se realizarán aplicando los siguientes criterios de compatibilidad:

Donante	→	Receptor
O	para	O y B
A	para	A y AB
B	para	B
AB	para	AB

- Se solicitará la cesión del órgano al equipo que por turno le corresponda y se les enviará el informe clínico, si así lo solicitan, para su valoración.
- En caso de coincidir varios pacientes en prioridad nacional, la misma vendrá marcada por:

Correo Electrónico: ont@ont.es

Página 1 de 4

Créditos: Depako, E (Párrafo 3) 2002-Actual  
Tel 902 300 224  
Fax 902 300 226

Correo Electrónico: ont@ont.es

Página 2 de 4

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# LUNG ALLOCATION CRITERIA IN SPAIN

## Priority Conditions

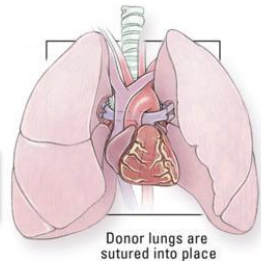
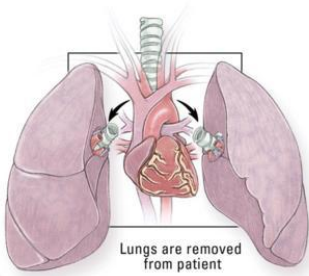
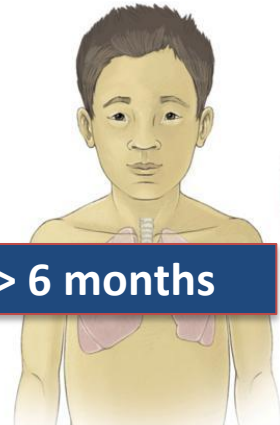


PEDIATRIC DONOR  
PEDIATRIC RECIPIENT



Time WL > 6 months

Lobar transplantation



# Lung allocation based on geographical criteria

**PRIORITY**



Hospital



City



Region



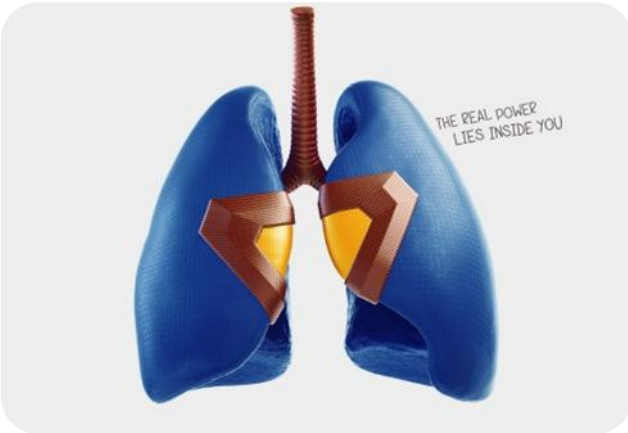
Area



National



Europe



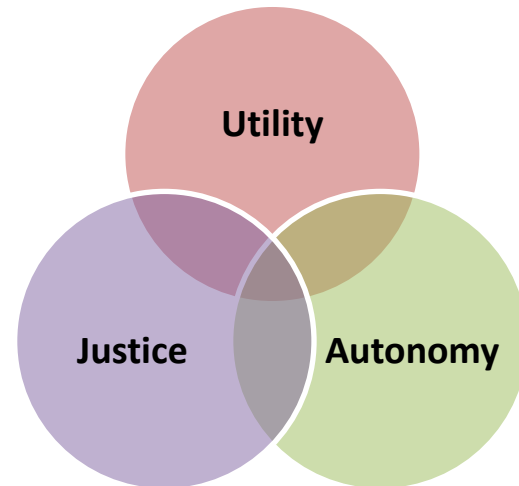


# ORGAN ALLOCATION

## Spanish system

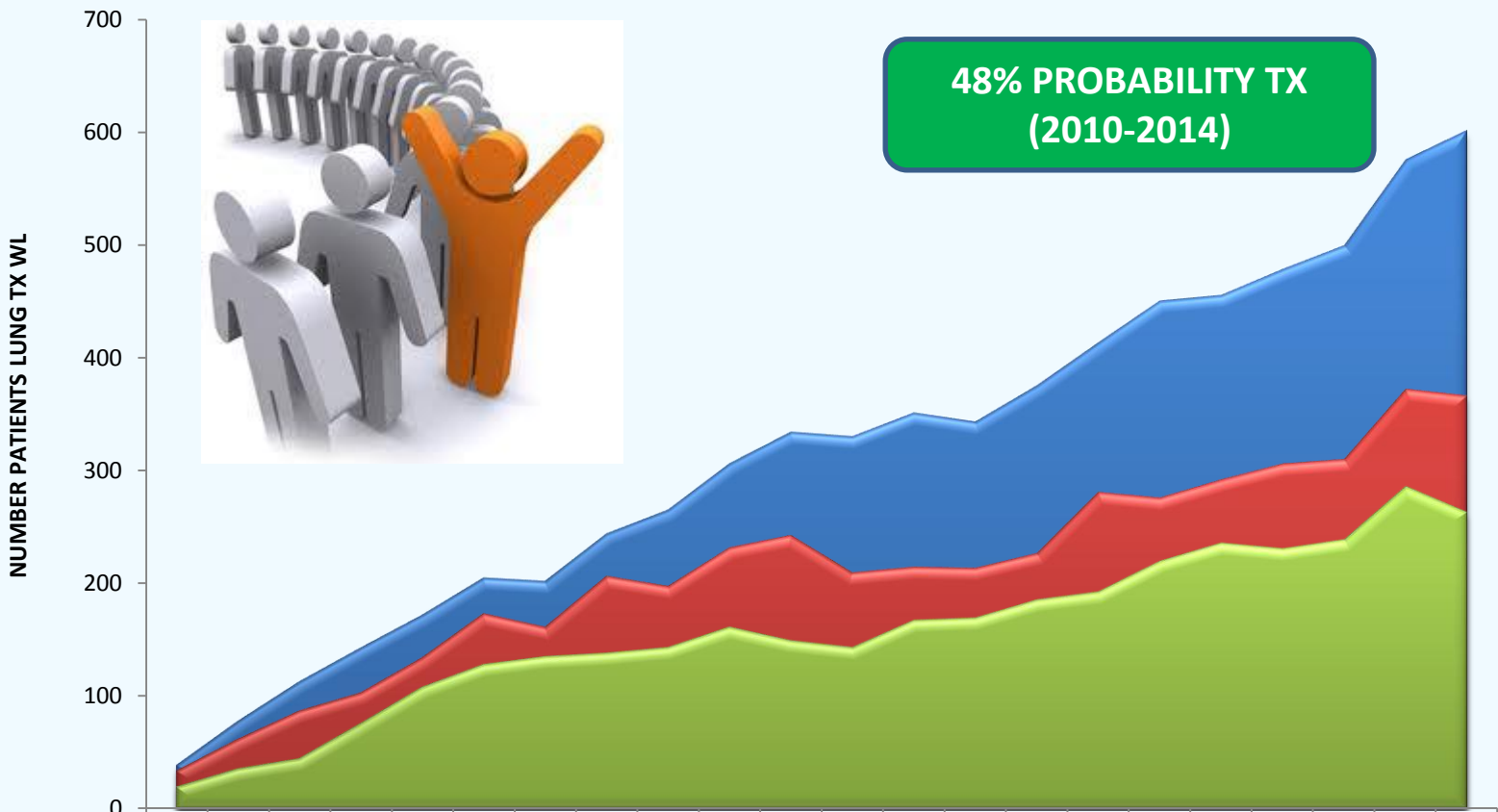
ONT offers to a tx program with suitable recipients (adult/pediatric) **according to blood group compatibility** (following geographical criteria) to **CENTERS**: Individualized selection

- Size
- Clinical situation
- Time on Waiting list





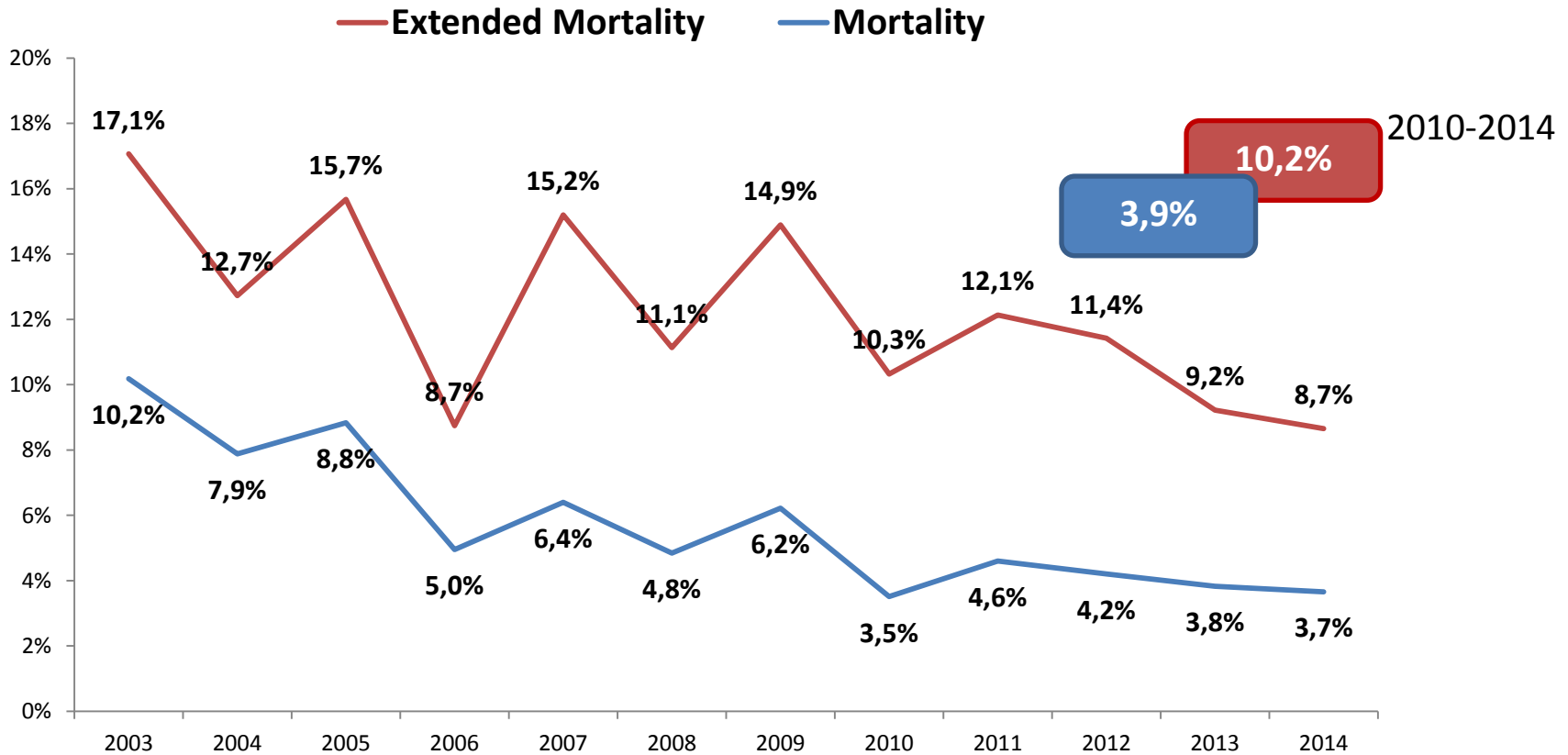
# WL MANAGEMENT



	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Total patients	39	78	113	143	172	205	202	244	265	306	334	330	351	343	375	413	450	455	478	499	575	601
New inclusions	34	62	87	103	134	173	161	206	197	231	242	209	214	213	226	280	275	291	305	309	371	365
Transplants	20	36	45	76	108	128	135	138	143	161	149	143	167	169	185	192	219	235	230	238	285	262

# WL MANAGEMENT

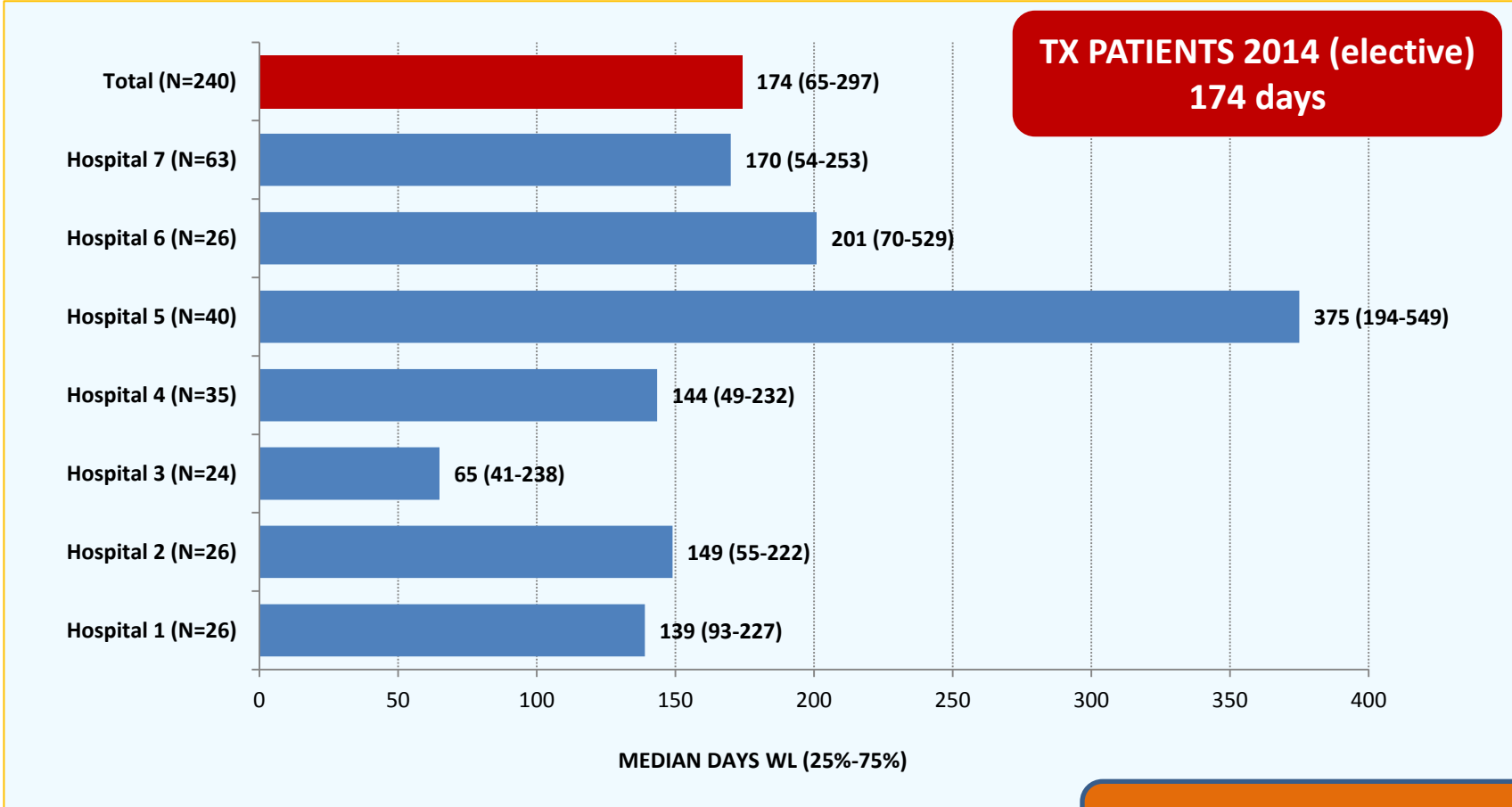
## Mortality on waiting list



**48% PROBABILITY TX (2010-2014)**

# WL MANAGEMENT

## Differences in time waiting list

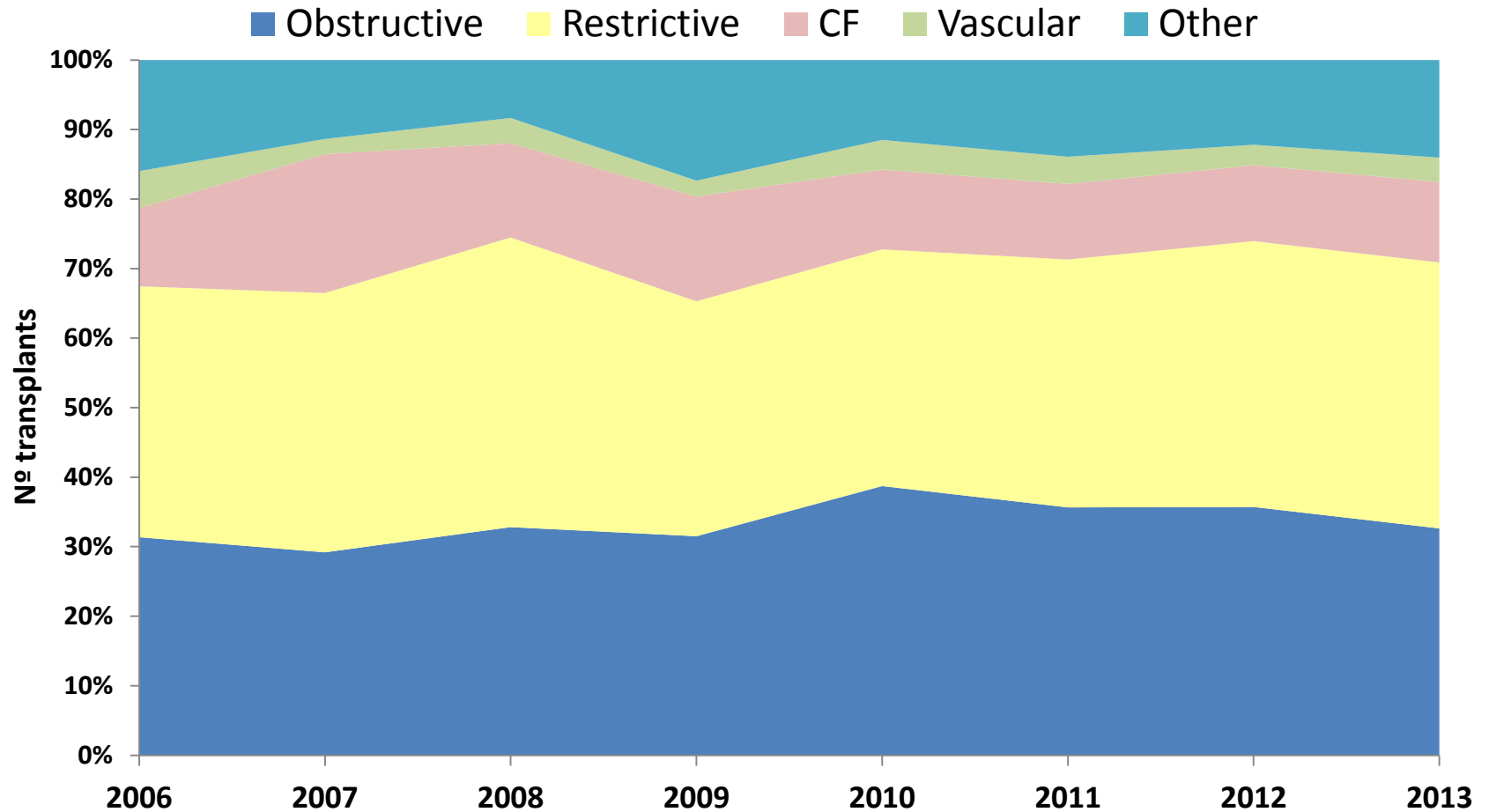


**TX PATIENTS 2014 (elective)**  
**174 days**

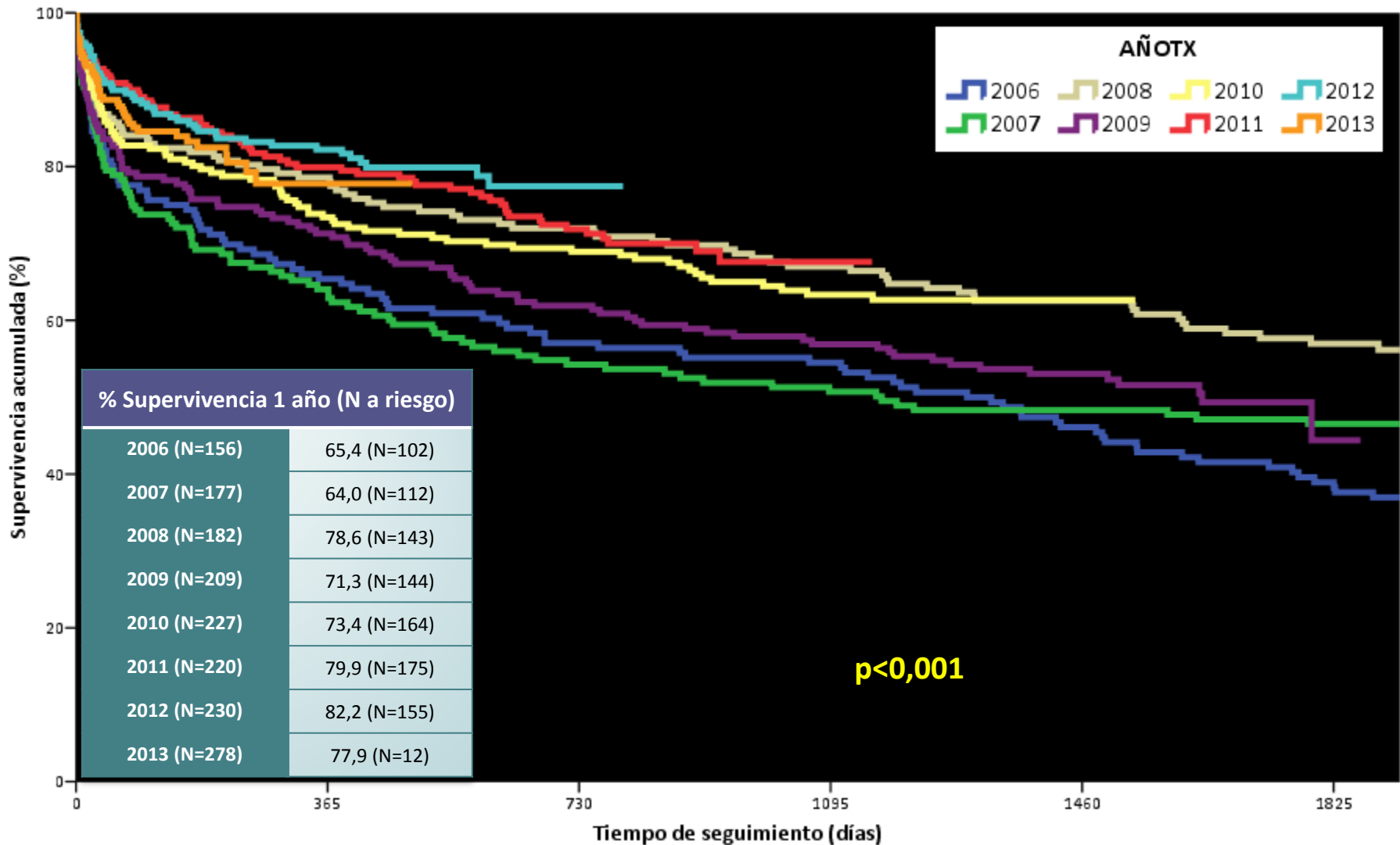
**GLOBAL PATIENTS WL 2014**  
**178 days**



## Diagnosis Lung Tx Spain 2006-2013



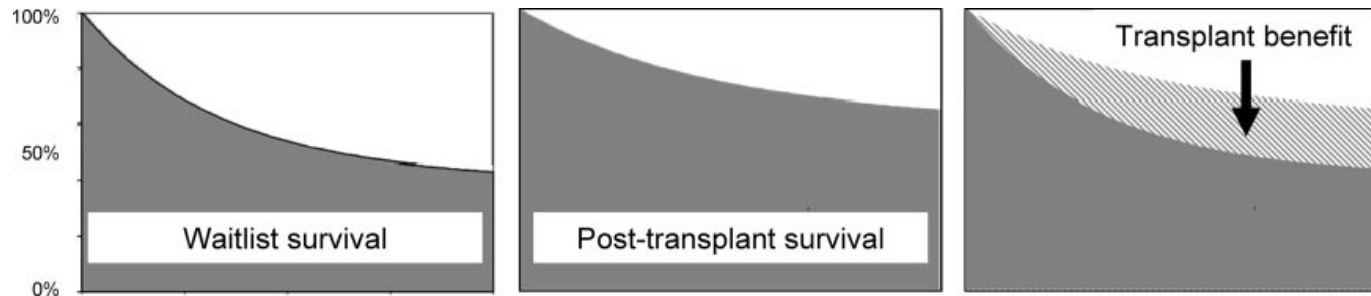
# Results Tx Spain 2006-2013



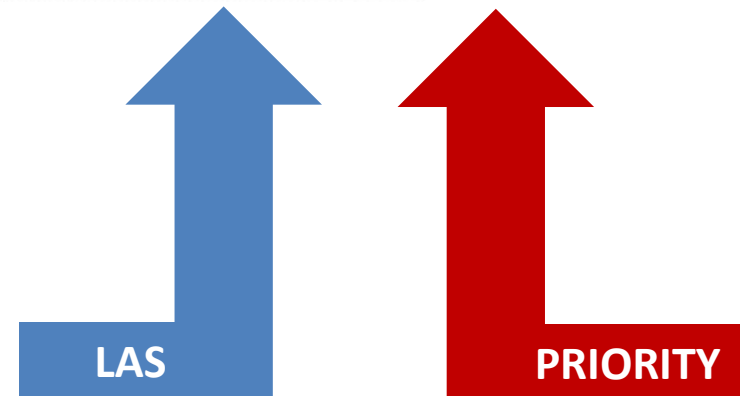


# LUNG ALLOCATION SCORE LAS

- Estimates the severity of each candidates' illness and his/her chance of success following a lung transplant.



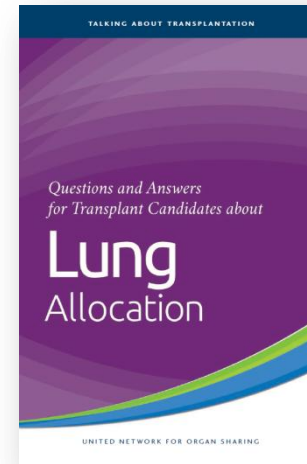
- Candidate age 12 and older
- Geographical scheme



## Transplant candidates' lung allocation scores are calculated from the following medical information:

- **Forced vital capacity** – A lung function test that measures the maximum amount of air you can breathe in as deeply as possible. This amount may be lower in patients with lung disease.
- **Pulmonary artery pressure** – The pressure the heart generates to pump blood through the lungs. This pressure may be high in some people with serious lung disease.
- **Oxygen at rest** – The amount of oxygen needed at rest to maintain adequate oxygen levels in the blood. People with severe lung disease may need additional oxygen.
- **Age** – Age at the time lungs are offered.
- **Body mass index** – A measure of body fat based on height and weight that, when combined with other medical test results, helps assess health status.
- **Diabetes** – High blood sugar over a long period of time may be a predictor of health status in some people with lung disease.
- **Functional status** – A way to measure the effects that lung disease has on performing routine daily tasks.
- **6-minute walk distance** – How far you can walk in 6 minutes is a measure of functional status.
- **Assisted ventilation** – The use of a ventilator to assist breathing is a measure of disease severity.
- **Pulmonary capillary wedge pressure** – The pressure that blood returning to the heart from the lungs must overcome. This pressure can become increased when the heart is not pumping effectively.
- **Serum creatinine and change in serum creatinine** – A measure of kidney function. High creatinine levels reflect impaired kidney function, sometimes associated with severe lung disease.
- **Diagnosis** – Research has shown that urgency among people needing a lung transplant and success following a lung transplant vary among people with different lung diseases. Therefore, diagnosis factors into the calculation of the lung allocation score.
- **PCO<sub>2</sub> and change in PCO<sub>2</sub>** – The amount of carbon dioxide in the blood. When the lung's ability to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide becomes impaired, the PCO<sub>2</sub> level may increase.
- **Total bilirubin and change in bilirubin** – A substance made by the liver when it breaks down old red blood cells. High bilirubin is a marker for right heart failure.
- **Cardiac index** – Indicates how well the heart is pumping blood. Low cardiac index indicates failure of the heart to maintain adequate blood circulation.
- **Central venous pressure** – The blood pressure in the veins in the right upper chamber of the heart. High CVP may indicate failure of the heart to maintain adequate blood circulation.

# LUNG ALLOCATION SCORE



RANGE 0-100

Lowest <50

Mid 50-79

Highest ≥80

### Waiting List Survival Model

- Age
- Body mass index (BMI)
- Continuous mechanical ventilation
- Diabetes
- Diagnosis
  - Group A
  - Group B
  - Group C
  - Group D
  - Detailed Diagnoses
- Forced vital capacity (FVC)
- Functional Status
- Oxygen required at rest (Groups A, C, and D)
- Partial pressure of carbon dioxide (PCO<sub>2</sub>) (serial and at least 15% increase in PCO<sub>2</sub> value)
- Pulmonary artery (PA) systolic pressure (Groups A, C, and D)
- Six-minute walk distance

### Post-Transplant Survival Model

- Age
- Continuous mechanical ventilation
- Diagnosis
  - Group A
  - Group B
  - Group C
  - Group D
  - Detailed diagnoses
- Forced vital capacity (FVC) (Groups B and D)
- Functional Status
- Pulmonary capillary wedge pressure of at least 20 mm Hg (Group D)
- Creatinine – serum





# LAS



CHEST

Original Research

LUNG TRANSPLANTATION

## Lung Allocation Score for Lung Transplantation\*

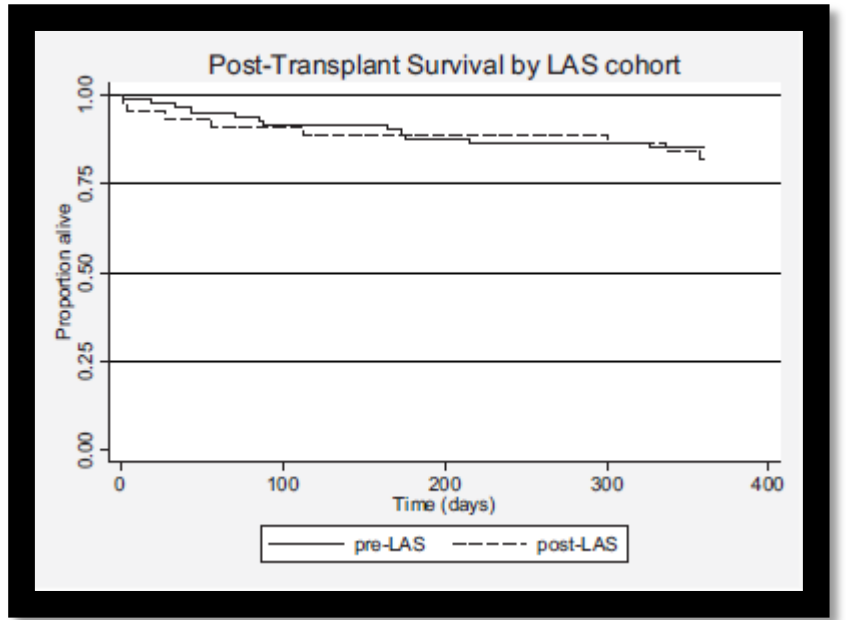
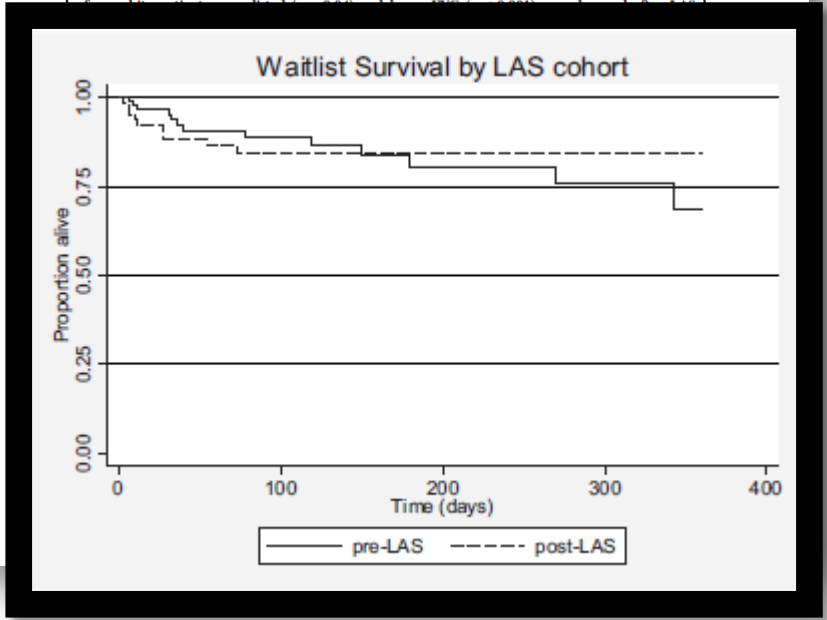
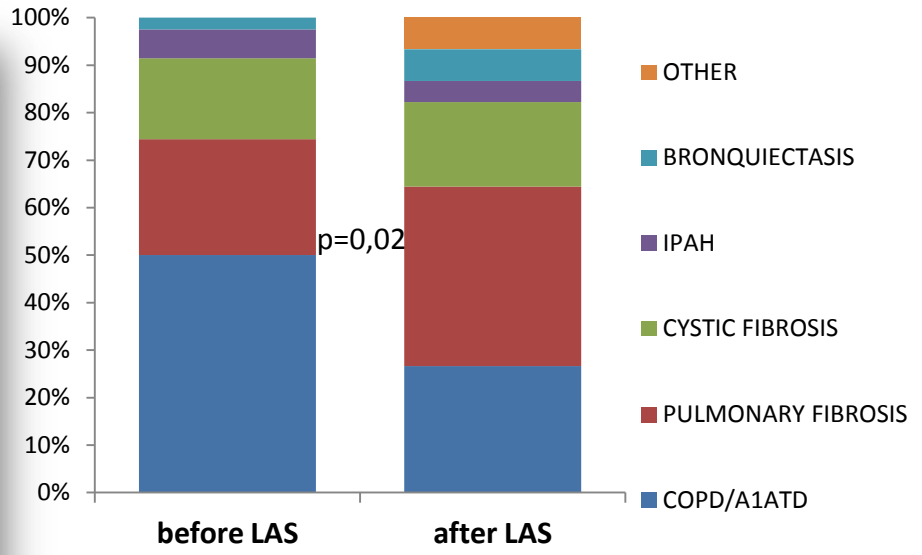
### Impact on Disease Severity and Survival

Cynthia J. Gries, MD, MSc; Michael S. Mulligan, MD, FCCP;  
 Jeffrey D. Edelman, MD, FCCP; Ganesh Raghu, MD, FCCP;  
 J. Randall Curtis, MD, MPH, FCCP; and Christopher H. Goss, MD, MSc, FCCP

**Background:** Prior to implementation of the lung allocation score (LAS) system, allocation of donor lungs was based on accrued time on the waiting list and was potentially influenced by center-specific thresholds for listing. The impact of LAS implementation on patient characteristics and survival is unknown.

**Methods:** United Network of Organ Sharing data were obtained on all lung transplant candidates listed and all patients undergoing transplantation in region 6 between May 4, 2003, and May 4, 2006. Each data set was divided into two cohorts: 2 years before LAS implementation, and 1 year after LAS implementation. LAS was calculated and compared by cohort. Pre-LAS and post-LAS differences in patient characteristics were examined. Waiting list and posttransplant survival rates for each cohort were examined using Kaplan-Meier estimates and Cox regression.

**Results:** After LAS implementation, the distribution of diagnoses in patients undergoing transplantation significantly changed ( $p = 0.02$ ), while the distribution of diagnoses in those listed did not ( $p = 0.17$ ). Characteristics of patients on the waiting list were similar, except that a higher proportion



# LAS



CHEST

Original Research

LUNG TRANSPLANTATION

## Despite Decreased Wait-List Times for Lung Transplantation, Lung Allocation Scores Continue to Increase\*

Alexander Iribarne, MD; Mark J. Russo, MD, MS; Ryan R. Davies, MD; Kimberly N. Hong, MHA; Annetine C. Gelijns, PhD; Matthew D. Backlund, MD; Frank D'Ovidio, MD, PhD; Selim Arcasoy, MD, FCCP; and Joshua R. Detering, MD

**Background:** In May 2005, the lung allocation score (LAS) was introduced as a means to allocate donor lungs in order to decrease wait-list mortality and prioritize candidates for lung transplantation based on urgency and posttransplant survival. The purpose of this study was to assess changes in wait-list times and mean LAS since the introduction of the LAS model.

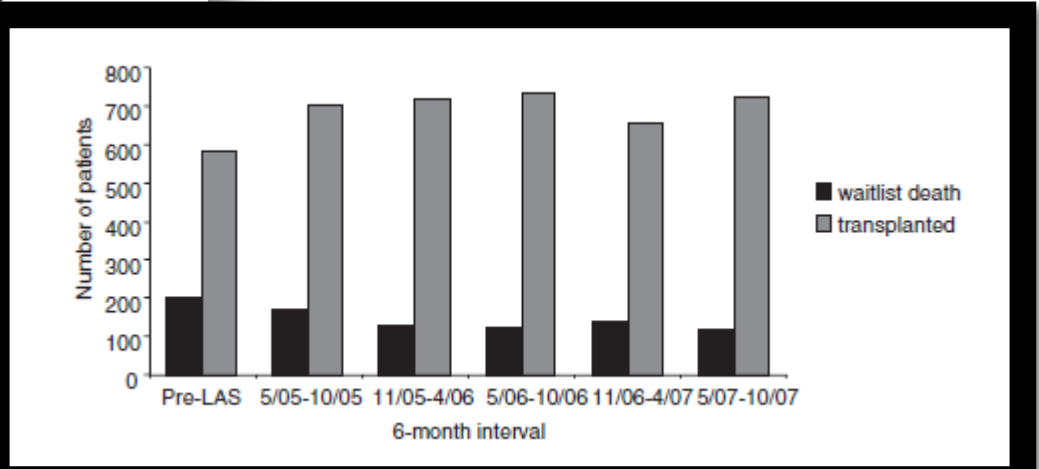
**Methods:** The United Network for Organ Sharing provided de-identified patient-level data for a study population consisting of all patients in the United States with a reported wait-list time for lung transplantation between May 7, 2005 and November 7, 2007. The study was divided into 6-month intervals. The Kruskal-Wallis test was used to assess for differences in wait-list times with nonparametric distributions. The nonparametric trends test was used to assess the significance of trends over time.

**Results:** There was a significant decrease in wait-list time during the study period (median wait-list time among transplant recipients increased ( $p < 0.001$ ). There was no significant change in mean LAS ( $49.3 \pm 17.5\%$ ,  $p = 0.48$ ) or pulmonary capillary wedge pressure ( $11.1 \pm 5.8$  mmHg,  $p = 0.14$ ); however, there was a significant increase in age ( $51.5 \pm 13.9$  years,  $p < 0.001$ ) over the study period. When stratified by etiology, the LAS increased for both interstitial pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) and COPD patients ( $p < 0.001$ ). Moreover, the overall number of patients listed for lung transplantation as well as the LAS among transplant candidates increased ( $p < 0.001$ ).

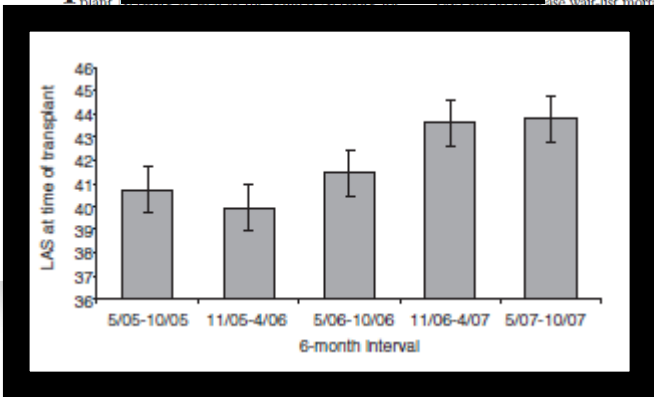
**Conclusions:** Two years after initiation of the LAS model, wait-list times continued to decrease while mean LAS continued to increase. This increase in LAS among transplant candidates was observed most notably in patients with interstitial pulmonary fibrosis and COPD. (CHEST 2009; 135:923-928)

**Key words:** lung allocation score; lung transplantation; organ allocation; wait-list time

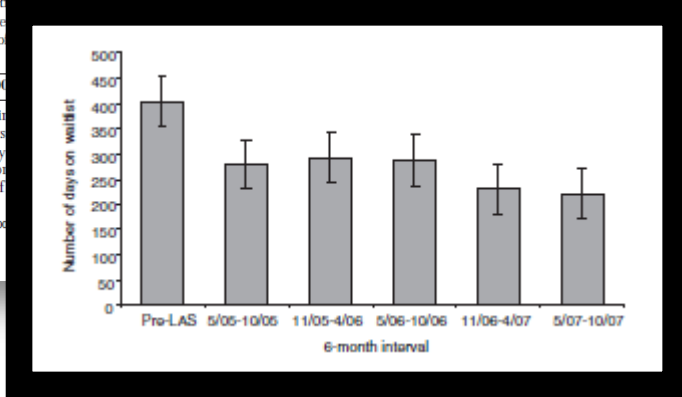
**Abbreviations:** CF = cystic fibrosis; IPF = interstitial pulmonary fibrosis; LAS = lung allocation score; UNOS = United Network for Organ Sharing



### LAS Tx patients



### Time WL Tx patients



# LAS

## Does lung allocation score maximize survival benefit from lung transplantation?

Mark J. Russo, MD, MS,\* Bertram Wörku, MD,<sup>b</sup> Alexander Iribarne, MD, MS,<sup>b</sup> Kimberly N. Hong, MHSA,<sup>b</sup> Jonathan A. Yang, MD,<sup>b</sup> Wickii Vigneswaran, MD,\* and Joshua R. Sonett, MD<sup>c</sup>

**Objective:** The lung allocation score was initiated in May 2005 to allocate lungs on the basis of medical urgency and posttransplant survival. However, the relationship between lung allocation score and candidate outcomes remains poorly characterized. The purpose of this study was (1) to describe outcomes by lung allocation score at the time of listing and (2) to estimate the net survival benefit of transplantation by lung allocation score.

**Methods:** The United Network for Organ Sharing provided de-identified patient-level data. Analysis included lung transplant candidates aged 12 years or more and listed between May 4, 2005, and May 4, 2009 (n = 6082). Candidates were stratified according to lung allocation score at listing into 7 groups: lung allocation score less than 40, 40 to 49, 50 to 59, 60 to 69, 70 to 79, 80 to 89, and 90 or more. Outcomes of interest included the risk of death on the waiting list and likelihood of transplantation. The net survival benefit of transplantation was defined as actuarial median post-transplant graft survival minus actuarial median waiting list survival, where the outcome of interest was death on the waiting list or posttransplant; candidates were censored at the time of transplant or last follow-up.

**Results:** In the lowest-priority strata (eg, <40 and 40–49), less than 4% of candidates died on the waiting list within 90 days of listing. The median net survival benefit was lowest in the lung allocation score less than 40 (–0.7 years) and lung allocation score 90+ group (1.95 years) and highest in the 50 to 59 (3.44 years), 60 to 69 (3.69 years), and 70 to 79 (2.81 years) groups.

**Conclusions:** The mid-priority groups (eg, 50–59, 60–69, 70–79) seem to achieve the greatest survival benefit from transplantation. Although low-priority candidates comprise the majority of transplant recipients, survival benefit in this group seems to be less than in other groups given the low risk of death on the waiting list. As expected, both the time to transplant and survival on the waiting list are lower in the higher-priority strata (eg, 80–89 and 90+). However, their net survival benefit was lower (ie, relatively low) as a result of their poor posttransplant survival. (*J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 2011;141:1270–7)

The disparity between potential recipients and available donors demands efficient methods of organ allocation to ensure optimal use of this scarce resource. In prior years, lung allocation was based on accrued time on the waiting list.<sup>1,2</sup> In 1999, the US Department of Health and Human

Services published the "Final Rule," which required that all organ allocation systems place less emphasis on waiting time and more on medical urgency.<sup>3</sup> In response to the "Final Rule," the organ procurement and transplantation network and the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) implemented the lung allocation score (LAS) in May 2005. Under LAS, all lung transplant candidates are prioritized according to LAS, which is calculated on the basis of a multifactor model that is a weighted combination of predicted waiting and posttransplant survival at 1 year (Appendix 1).<sup>4</sup>

Several studies, including those by our group, have demonstrated favorable trends in waiting times and waiting list survival since the implementation of the LAS.<sup>5,7</sup> An increase in disease severity among listed patients has also been observed.<sup>8,9,10</sup> Despite this trend, acceptable posttransplant survival has been demonstrated in the LAS era.<sup>5,7,10</sup> However, as previously demonstrated, as expected, posttransplant survival is inversely related to LAS at the time of transplant.<sup>11,12</sup>

The objectives of this study were (1) to describe outcomes by LAS at the time of listing and (2) to estimate

- 2005-2009 (n=6082)
- NET SURVIVAL BENEFIT LAS SCORE
- MOST FREQUENT: LOW PRIORITY
- MID PRIORITY (50-79) GROUPS GRATEST NET SURVIVAL BENEFIT
- HIGH PRIORITY:
  - LOWER TIME TO TX
  - LOWER SURVIVAL WL
  - LOWER SURVIVAL POST TX

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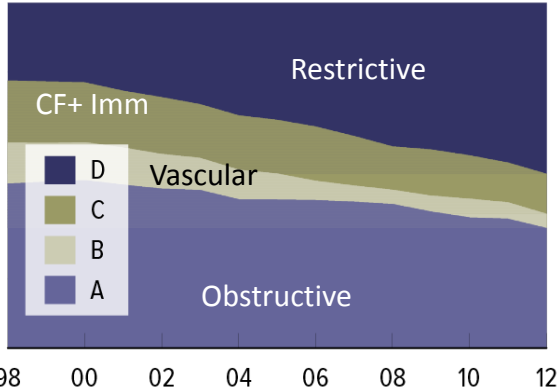
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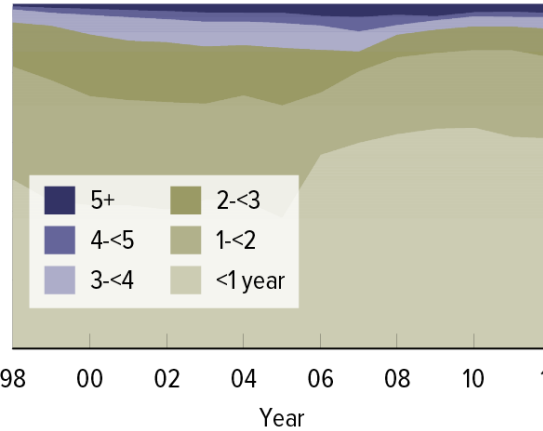
# OPTN/SRTR 2012 Annual Data Report

## LUNG

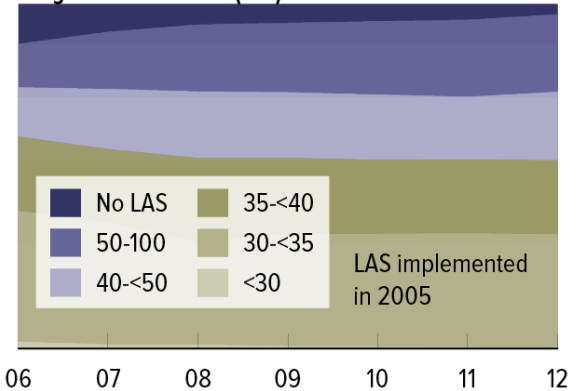
Diagnosis group



Time on wait list



Lung Allocation Score (LAS)

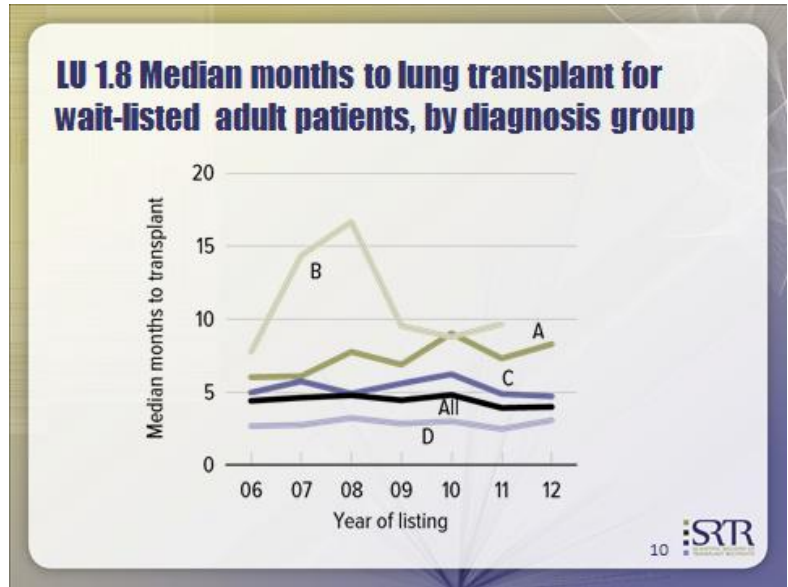


	2010	2011	2012
Patients at start of year	1,836	1,780	1,679
Patients added during year	2,359	2,323	2,231
Patients removed during year	2,409	2,420	2,294
Patients at end of year	1,786	1,683	1,616
<b>Removal reason</b>			
Deceased donor transplant	1,776	1,818	1,754
Living donor transplant	0	1	1
Patient died	338	348	303
Patient refused transplant	6	11	8
Improved, tx not needed	158	69	41
Too sick to transplant	45	81	110
Other	86	92	77

**% TX**  
42% → 44.3% → 44.9%

**MORTALITY 8%**

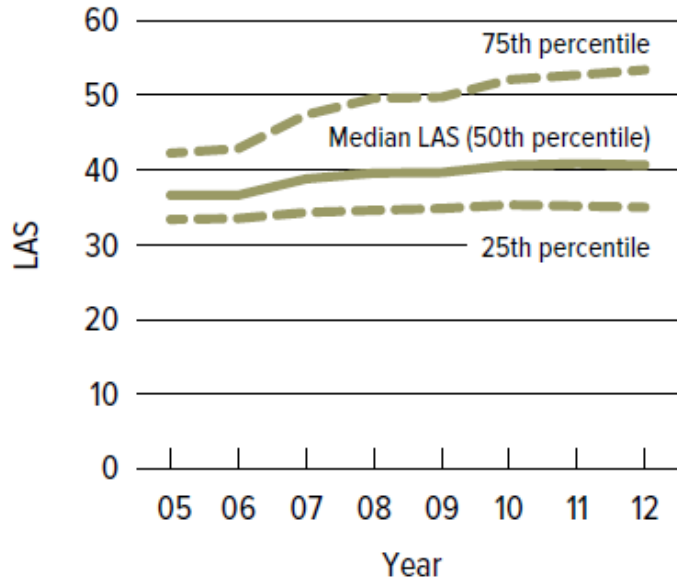
**+ 1% + 2% + 2.8%**





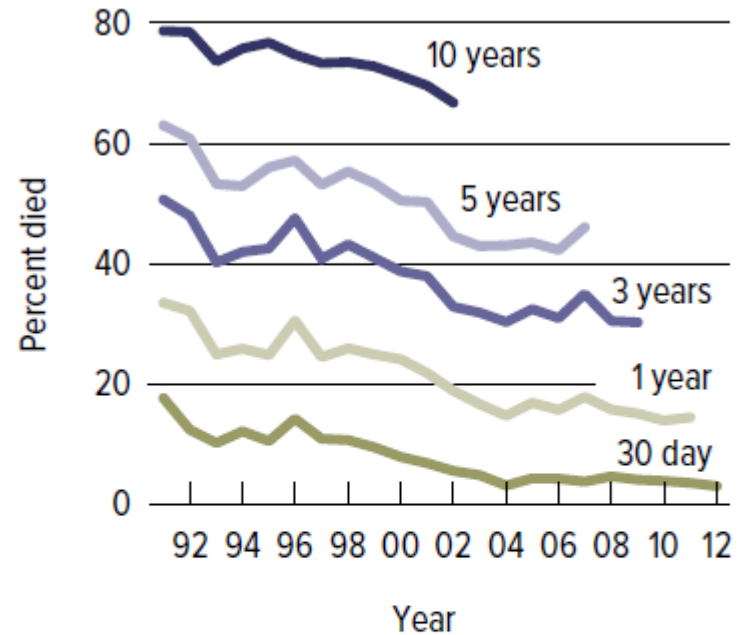
# OPTN/SRTR 2012 Annual Data Report

## LUNG



### LU 3.4 Median LAS at transplant

Patients aged 12 years and older with all data required to compute LAS non-missing; last LAS prior to transplant.



### LU 5.2 Patient death among adult lung transplant recipients

Cox proportional hazards models reporting probability, adjusting for age, sex, and race.



# OPTN/SRTR 2012 Annual Data Report LUNG

- The LAS has reduced waiting time and altered the lung diseases being transplanted.
- Sicker patients who would never have been listed on the old system are being transplanted. Candidates being listed have more advanced lung disease than in previous years.
- SRTR data suggest that the first-year mortality after transplantation rate is worse than previous reports. The risk of death is significantly increased for patients with a higher score. A higher morbidity and longer ICU stay have been documented by many authors. Patients with high LAS scores offer specific challenges in the operating room and post-operative care.



EUROTRANSPLANT

## LAS EUROTRANSPLANT

- December 10, 2011, **Germany and international exchange** of donor lungs from all countries.
- April 22, 2014, LAS has been implemented for the allocation of donor lungs from the **Netherlands**.
- LAS of  $\geq 50$  are considered as high LAS patients, whereas a LAS  $< 50$  is considered as a low LAS status
- Patients with a low LAS and from a country with a negative total balance with the donor country will be sorted among the donor country's patients either according to LAS (in case of a German/Dutch donor) or according to waiting time (donor from non-LAS country).





EUROTRANSPLANT

# LAS EUROTRANSPLANT

Figure 6.10 Dynamics of the Eurotransplant heart + lung waiting list, heart + lung transplants, lung waiting list and lung transplants, between 1991 and 2013

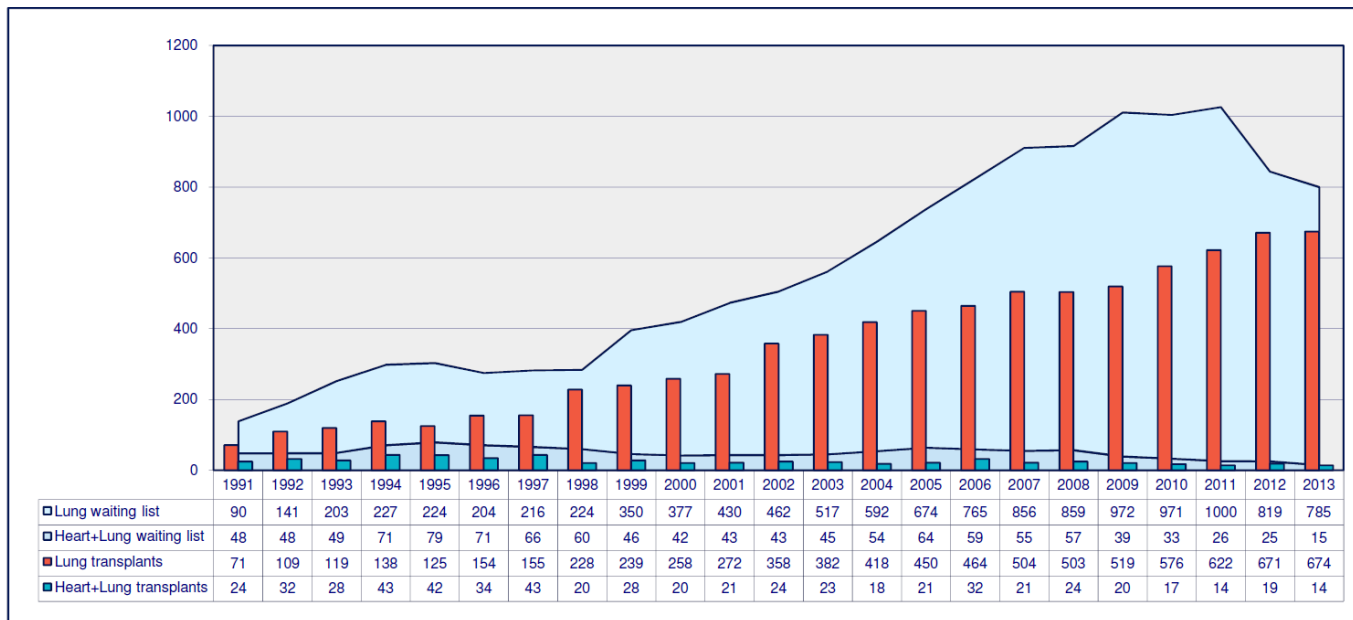
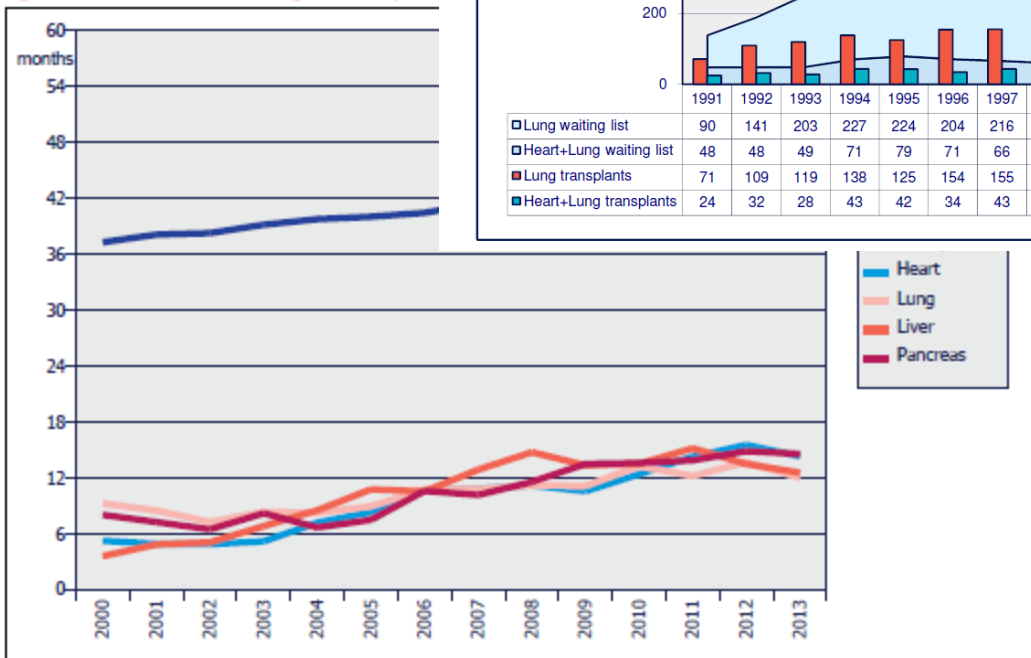


Figure 4.4 Median waiting time for patients



Median waiting time (on active at year end)



# LAS - GERMANY

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## Introduction of the Lung Allocation Score in Germany

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creased. Reductions in WL mortality were most pronounced among CF and PH patients.

**Keywords:** Lung allocation score, lung transplant outcome, lung transplantation, waitlist mortality

- ✓ Reduction in waiting list size and WL mortality. Reductions in WL mortality were most pronounced among Cystic Fibrosis and Pulmonary Hypertension patients.
- ✓ Composition of transplant recipients changed, with fewer COPD and more IPF recipients.
- ✓ Transplantation under invasive respiratory support increased.
- ✓ Three-month survival remained unchanged (pre: 96.1% and post: 94.9%,  $p = 0.94$ ).

# CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ CENTER/INDIVIDUAL
- ✓ MAINTAINING PRINCIPLES
- ✓ EVIDENCE FOR DECISIONS
- ✓ MONITORING RESULTS

