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Session : Concurrent Symposium 16 (Heart)

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Session Title : Donor Issues in Heart Transplantation

HLA / Size / Sex mismatch: How much differences are tolerable?

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HLA matching provides numerous benefits in organ transplantation including better graft function, fewer rejection episodes, longer graft survival, and the possibility of reduced immunosuppression. Mismatches are attended by more frequent rejection episodes that require increased immunosuppression that, in turn, can increase the risk of infection and malignancy. The role of HLA matching has been studied extensively in renal transplantation however, its use and impact in thoracic organ transplantation has not been as thoroughly investigated. By having a better understanding of the role of HLA typing in HTx, healthcare providers may identify patients who are at greater risk of mortality, graft dysfunction, or organ rejection and can, consequently, guide additional and tailored immunological prophylactic therapy. Sex-mismatched HTx, particularly female donor to male recipient, has historically been associated with reduced post-transplant survival. Recent studies showed that survival differences associated with donor-recipient sex mismatch are primarily attributable to differences in PHM and that an appropriately sized female donor heart performed equally well as a similarly sized heart from a male donor. Notably, the ISHLT guidelines on donor heart selection specifically state that allocation of female donor hearts to male recipients may be done safely, especially in the absence of recipient pulmonary hypertension, when adequate donor/recipient weight ratio and/or PHM is ensured.