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Title: Better survival outcomes after bilateral lung transplantation compared to single lung transplantation in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis

Ms. Liesbeth 29677 ten Klooster l.ten.klooster@antoniusziekenhuis.nl MD [1], Dr. Coline 29678 van Moorsel c.van.moorsel@antoniusziekenhuis.nl [1,2], Mrs. Diana 29679 van Kessel d.van.kessel@antoniusziekenhuis.nl MD [1,2], Dr. Erik Jan 29680 Oudijk e.oudijk@antoniusziekenhuis.nl MD [1,2], Dr. Ed 29681 van de Graaf e.a.vandegraaf@umcutrecht.nl MD [2], Dr. Johanna 29691 Kwakkel - van Erp j.m.kwakkel@umcutrecht.nl MD [2], Dr. Bart 29713 Luijk h.d.luijk@umcutrecht.nl MD [2], Dr. Rogier 29725 Hoek r.a.s.hoek@eramusmc.nl MD [3], Dr. Bernt 29732 van den Blink b.vandenblink@erasmusmc.nl MD [3], Dr. Peter 29736 van Hal p.vanhal@erasmusmc.nl MD [3], Mr. George 29779 Nossent g.d.nossent@umcg.nl MD [4], Dr. Wim 29785 van der Bij w.van.der.bij@umcg.nl MD [4], Dr. Erik 29789 Verschuuren e.a.m.verschuuren@umcg.nl MD [4] and Prof. Dr Jan 29854 Grutters j.grutters@antoniusziekenhuis.nl MD [1,2].
[1] Department of Pulmonology, Interstitial Lung Diseases Center of Excellence, St. Antonius Hospital, Nieuwegein, Utrecht, Netherlands, 3435 CM ; [2] Division of Heart and Lungs, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, Netherlands, 3584 CX ; [3] Department of Pulmonary Medicine, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 3015 CE and [4] Department of Lung Transplantation, University Medical Center Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands, 9713 GZ .

Body: OBJECTIVE Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a progressive fibrosing lung disease with a median survival of approximately 3 years after diagnosis. The only medical option to improve survival in IPF is lung transplantation (LTX). The aim of the study was to evaluate clinical data of IPF patients listed for LTX and to investigate survival outcomes after LTX with respect to single (SLT) and bilateral lung transplantation (BLT). METHODS Data were retrospectively collected from September 1989 until July 2011 of all IPF patients registered for lung transplantation in the Netherlands. Patients were included after revision of the diagnosis based on the IPF criteria set by the ATS/ERS/JRS/ALAT. Clinical data during LTX traject and donor data were collected. RESULTS 98 IPF patients were listed for LTX. During the waiting list period 30% of the patients died. Mean pulmonary artery pressure, six-minute walking distance and the use of supplemental oxygen were significant predictors of mortality on the waiting list. 52 IPF patients received LTX with a median overall survival after LTX of 10 years. BLT had a significant survival advantage compared to SLT (respective median survival of >120 months and 67 months; p = 0.023). CONCLUSION Waiting list mortality in IPF patients appeared to be high (30%). This study revealed a median survival of 10 years after LTX in IPF. Furthermore, our study demonstrated significant survival advantage of BLT compared to SLT in a well-characterized group of IPF patients.