Description and Outcomes of Patients Listed for Heart Transplant as Status 6

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BACKGROUND

- The 2018 United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) heart allocation policy change established a 6-tiered system to stratify patients by clinical priority.[1,2]
- Status 6 represents patients with the lowest priority. Minimal attention has been given to characterizing this specific population.

PURPOSE

We aim to describe outcomes for patients listed as status 6.

METHODS

- The United Network for Organ Sharing registry was used to identify all adult patients 18 years or older undergoing isolated HT and initially listed as status 6 from October 18, 2018, through December 31, 2024.
- Patients were then stratified into status 6, status 3-5 or status 1-2 by most recent reported status at time of transplant, death, de-listing or improvement.
- Competing risk analysis was used to identify predictors of transplantation, death or improvement.
- Kaplan-Meier analyses were performed and compared by listing status groups.

RESULTS

- Out of patients listed for isolated HT, 3,931 (19.2%) were initially listed as status 6. Among those, 1698 (43.2%) remained as status 6, 765 (19.5%) increased to status 3-5, and 1,468 (37.3%) increased to status 1-2 at time of transplantation, death, de-listing or improvement.
- Probability of transplantation increased with uplisting to status 1-2 (HR 2.15, CI [1.96-2.36], p<.001), while probability of death or delisting decreased (HR .29, CI [.15-.55], p<.001).

Figure 1. Cumulative incidence of waitlist outcomes among heart transplant candidates initially listed as status 6, grouped by status at transplant.

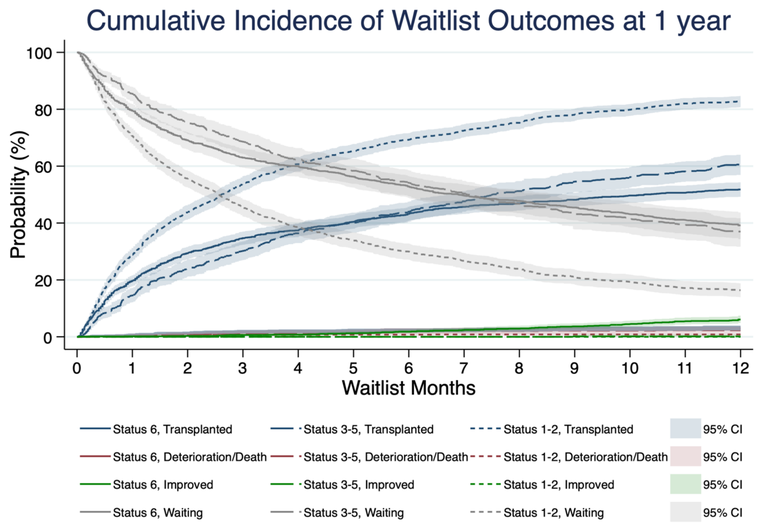
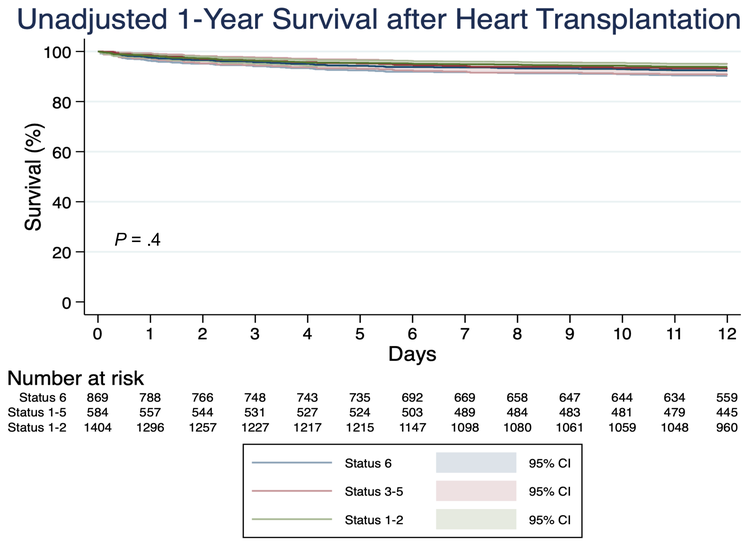


Figure 2. Kaplan-Meier survival after heart transplantation for patients initially listed as status 6, grouped according to status .



CONCLUSIONS

- The probability of transplantation increases for patients initially listed as status 6 who increase in status.
- Nearly 60% of patients initially listed as status 6 eventually move up status for transplantation and the majority of those move to status 1 or 2.
- Survival remains comparable among those listed as status 6, regardless of their status at the time of transplantation.

REFERENCES

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