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New kidney device offers hope to patients waiting for a kidney transplant

First UK patients receive successful kidney transplants using new LifePort™ Kidney Transporter

A new device developed by Organ Recovery Systems has been used for the first time in the UK to successfully transplant kidneys. The LifePort™ Kidney Transporter provides a breakthrough alternative to the conventional “ice cooler” (static) method of organ storage and will increase the number of kidneys available for transplantation in the UK.¹ The new technology has been used by the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle with the device recently receiving CE Mark approval – a significant milestone in making the technology available to patients across the UK.

As in other parts of the world, demand for kidneys in the UK far outstrips the number donated for transplant. According to statistics from UK Transplant, there are 4,995 people currently waiting for kidney transplants in the UK. By contrast only 1,831 kidney transplants were carried out last year. The alternative to kidney transplantation is dialysis which is a costly procedure and can often be inconvenient for the patient.

The traditional method of transporting kidneys from donor to recipient is by putting the organ on ice. The LifePort™ Kidney Transporter offers an innovative alternative whereby the kidney is placed in a special support system and undergoes a process known as “perfusion.” This means that the organ is physically protected during the entire transportation process and is gently pumped with a physiological solution, which ensures better preservation of the organ’s quality. Continuous perfusion outside the body is most commonly used to “rescue” organs from marginal and non-heart beating donors.

Commenting on the device, Mr David Talbot, a leading surgeon at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle, says:

“We are the first hospital in the UK to use the LifePort™ Kidney Transporter and we are delighted with the results. The device is a sophisticated system that provides a constant and controllable temperature and pressure environment that protects and preserves the organ as it is moved from donor to recipient. The beauty of the

¹ LM Jacobbi, ST Bartlett, MD RA Montgomery, MD, PhD, F Gage: Machine Preservation Can Maximize the Current Organ Pool and Significantly Increase the Number of Kidneys Available for Transplantation, American Transplant Congress, 2002.

Transporter is that it is easy to use and allows us to monitor the kidney in the critical time span between donation and transplantation.”

Pat Wheeler, a 61 year lady from Teesside, is the first person to benefit from the arrival of the LifePort™ Kidney Transporter in the UK. Following three and a half years on dialysis she finally received a successful transplant. The LifePort™ Kidney Transporter was used to perfuse her replacement kidney. Pat says:

“My husband describes the day a suitable donor and healthy kidney was found as the best bit of luck we ever had. I went through so many emotions that day. I know that I am one of the lucky people to receive a new kidney and that there are thousands of people on the waiting list. I am immensely grateful to the donor and their family.”

Originally developed in the U.S., the revolutionary device received clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in August 2003. The device gained EU clearance in February 2004 following the establishment of Organ Recovery System’s European headquarters in Brussels. The most recent development has been the successful use of the Transporter in Newcastle and the receipt of a CE Mark.

Organ Recovery Systems CEO David Kravitz says of the latest developments:

“This is a big step forward for us. Our company aims to provide surgeons with the best tools possible to do their jobs effectively and efficiently. The results that we have seen with the LifePort™ Kidney Transporter in the UK are encouraging and we are confident that the new tool will increase the quality and quantity of kidneys available for transplant.”

The LifePort™ Kidney Transporter is the first in the family of mobile perfusion devices being developed by Organ Recovery Systems. Transporters for the heart, pancreas and liver are in late stage development.

Ends

For further information please call Jo Parish or Miriam Phillips

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Notes to Editors

About Organ Recovery Systems

Organ Recovery Systems is a privately held company developing technologies and services to improve the quality and quantity of organs, tissues and cells for transplantation. For more about Organ Recovery Systems see our **Corporate Fact Sheet** or visit www.organ-recovery.com