

'Islet Transplantation: From Research to Reality'

Paul R V Johnson

Director of Oxford Islet Transplant Programme

UK ANNOUNCES NEW 50P COIN TO COMMEMORATE BREXIT



Outline

- Rationale for Islet Transplantation
- Methods
- Current Results
- Ongoing Challenges / Future Opportunities

Rationale



Ideal Treatment for T1DM

(once it has developed)

- 1) Restore true normal glucose homeostasis by coordinated islet hormone release (rather than just manage glycaemic excursions)
- 2) 'Switch off' ongoing autoimmune destruction
- 3) Replace islet-cells that have been destroyed
- 4) Prevent any secondary complications or reverse them if they have already developed
- 5) Treatment well-tolerated + appropriate for children

Benefits of Tight Glycaemic Control

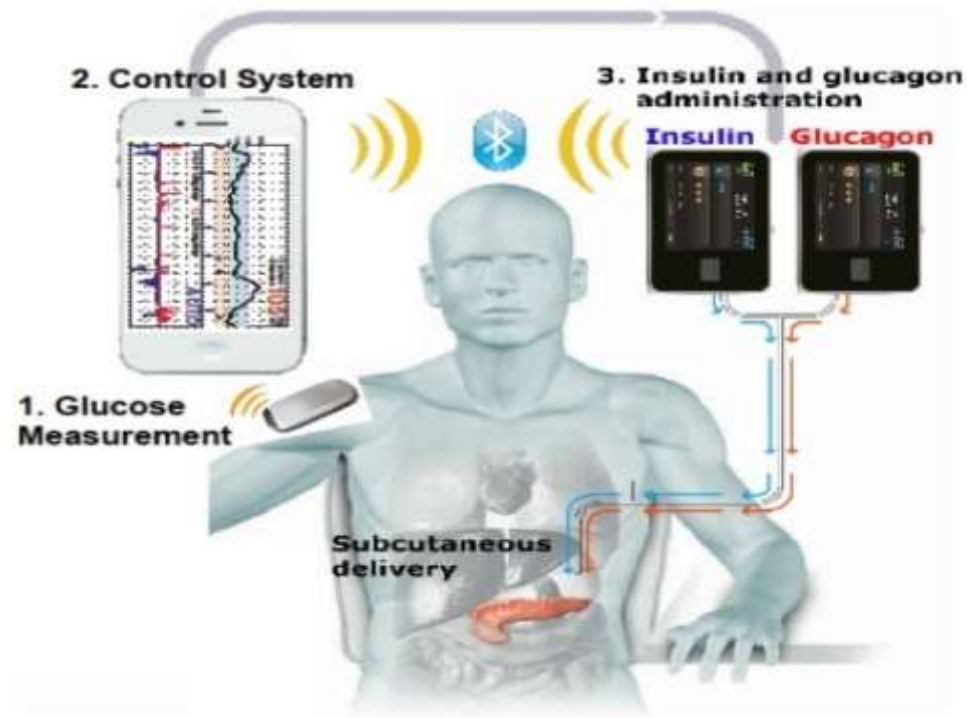
Intensive glucose control versus conventional glucose control for type 1 diabetes mellitus (Review)

Fullerton B, Jeitler K, Seitz M, Horvath K, Berghold A, Siebenhofer A

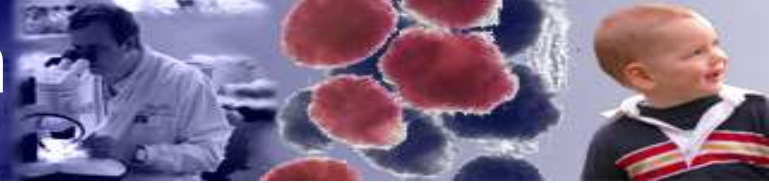


Tight blood sugar control reduces the risk of developing microvascular diabetes complications. The evidence of benefit is mainly from studies in younger patients at early stages of the disease. Benefits need to be weighed against risks including severe hypoglycaemia, and patient training is an important aspect in practice. The effects of tight blood sugar control seem to become weaker once complications have been manifested. However, further research is needed on this issue. Furthermore, there is a lack of evidence from RCTs on the effects of tight blood sugar control in older patient populations or patients with macrovascular disease. There is no firm evidence for specific blood glucose targets and treatment goals need to be individualised taking into account age, disease progression, macrovascular risk, as well as the patient's lifestyle and disease management capabilities.

Advancing Technology

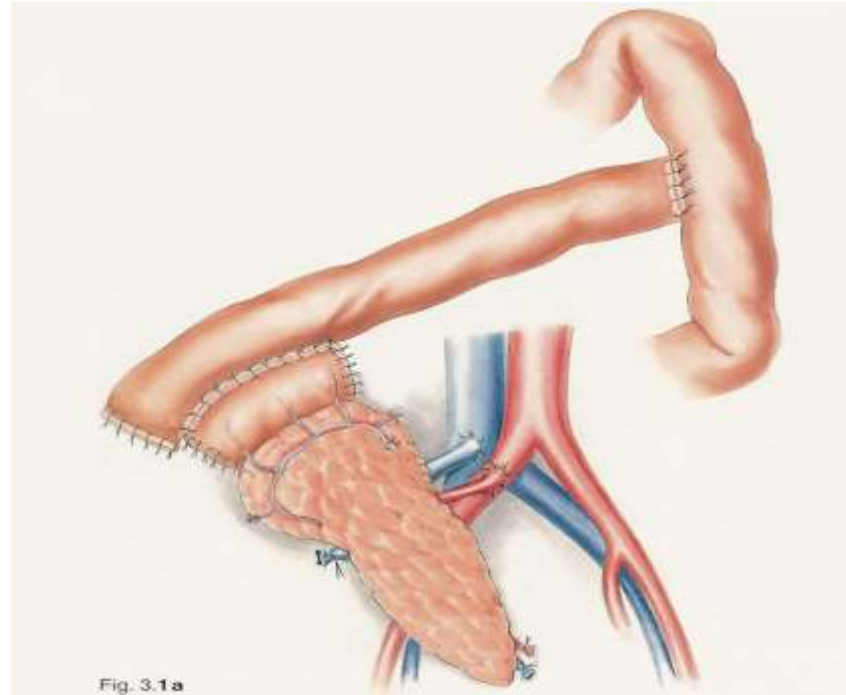
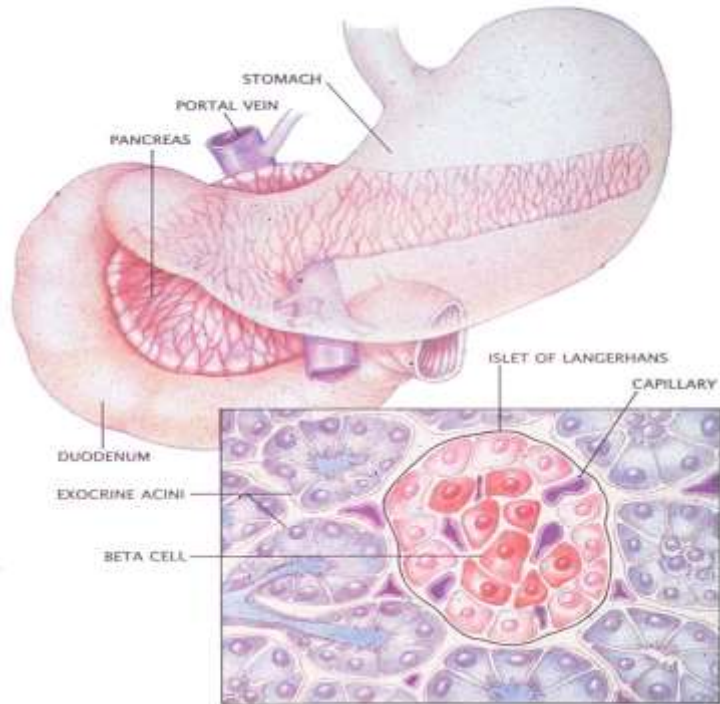


Technology vs Transplantation

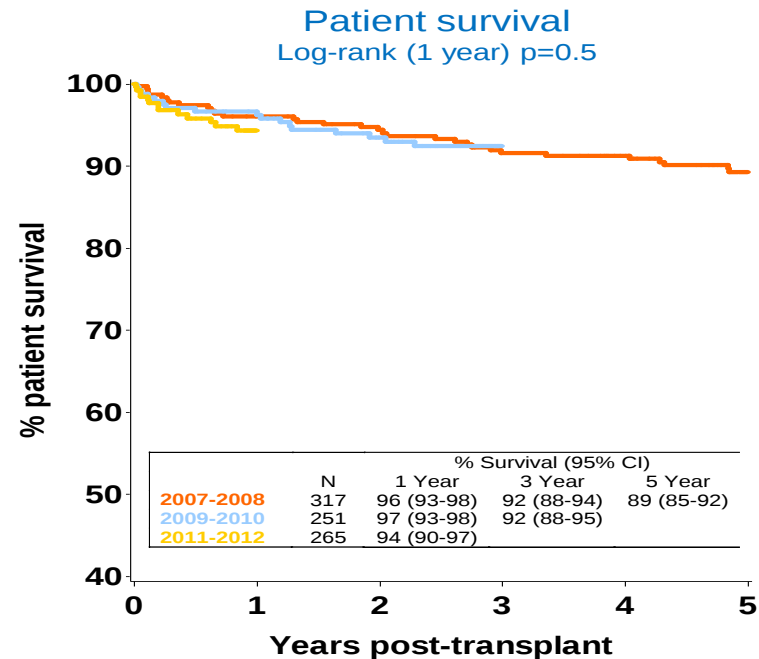
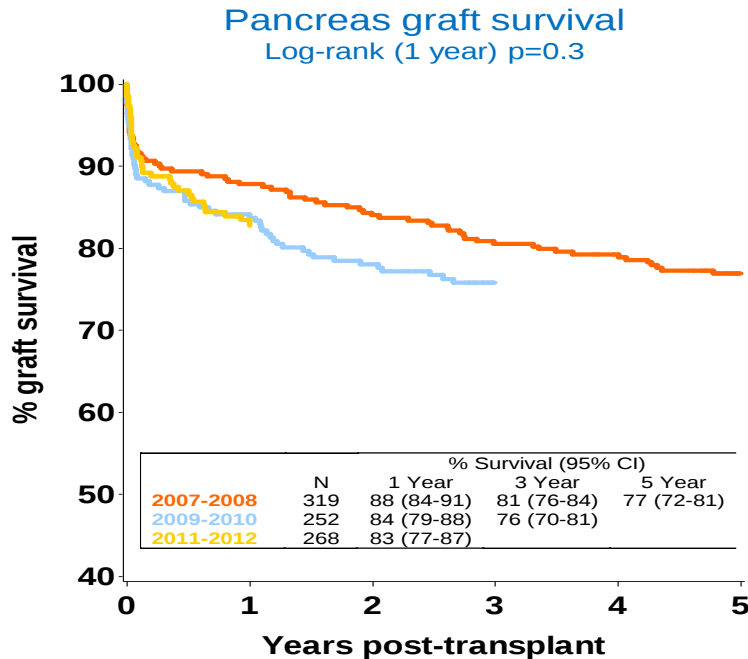


Treatment Aim	Technology	Transplantation
1) Potential to restore normal glucose homeostasis	(✓)	✓
2) Prevent /Reverse secondary complications	✓	✓
3) Replace lost beta-cells	X	✓
4) Switch off autoimmunity	X	✓

Whole Pancreas Transplantation

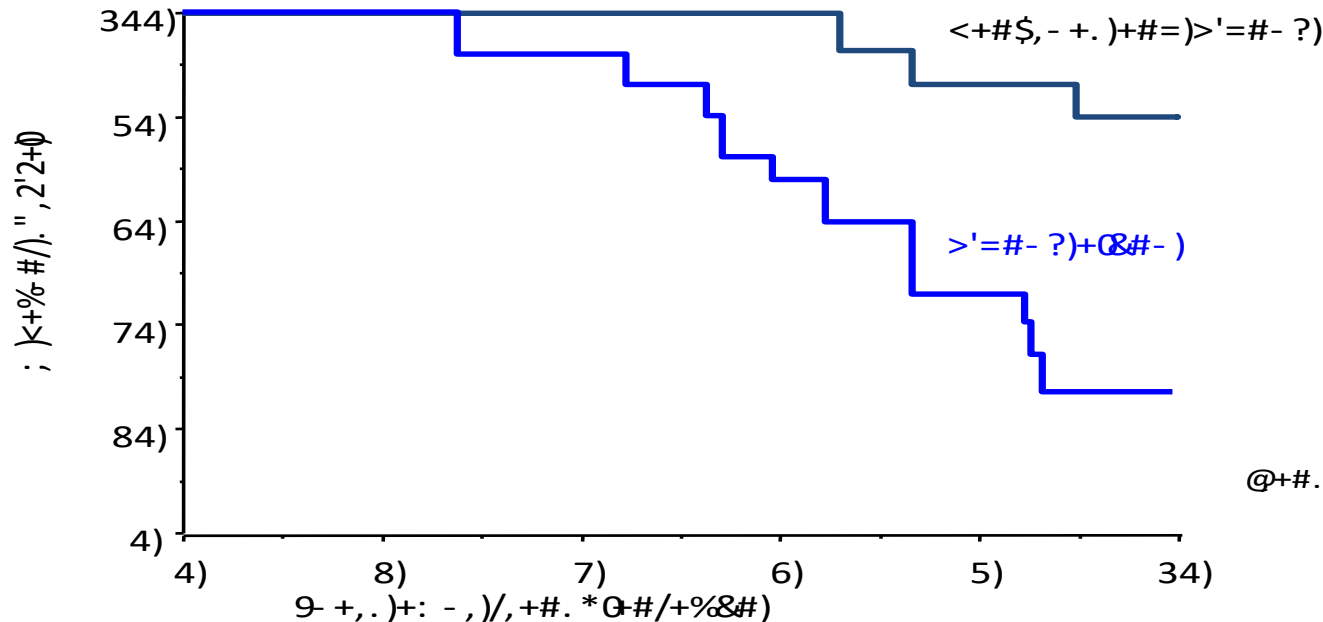


UK SPK Results



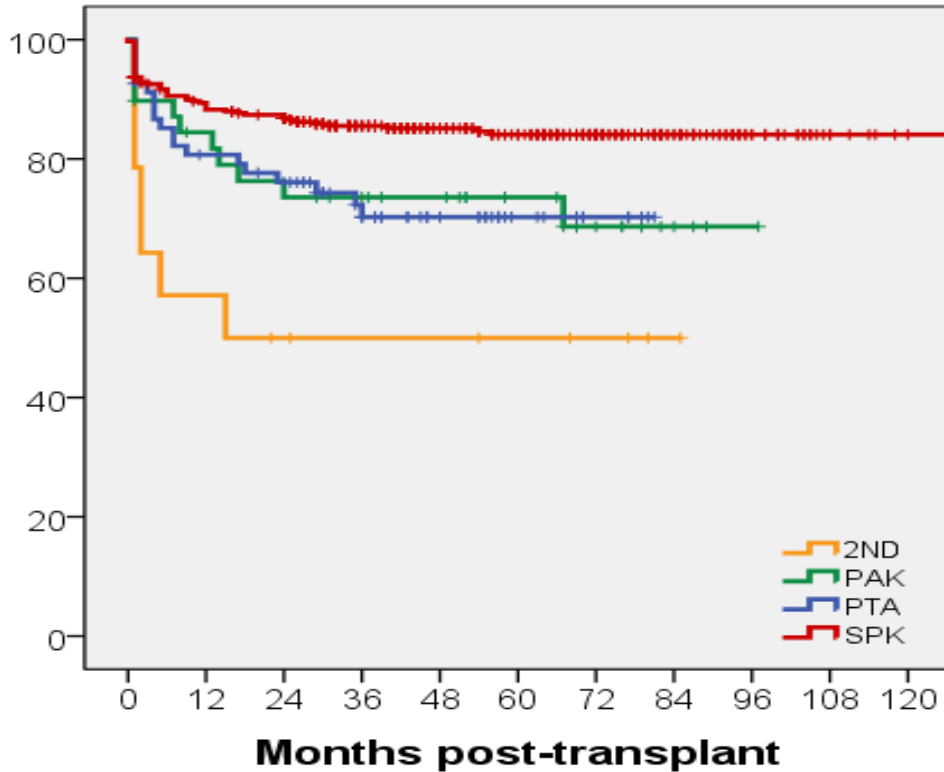
Patient Survival

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SPK vs PTA

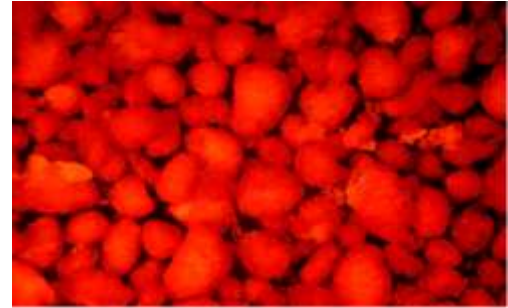
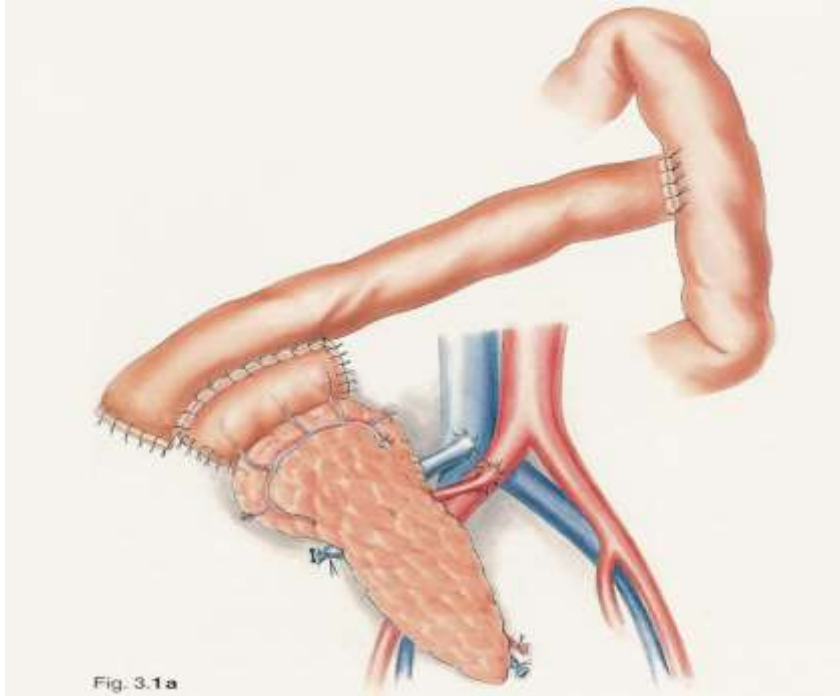


	1 year	3 year	5 year
SPK	88%	86%	84%
PTA	79%	70%	70%
PAK	76%	74%	74%
2 nd Tx	57%	50%	50%

Whole Pancreas Tx

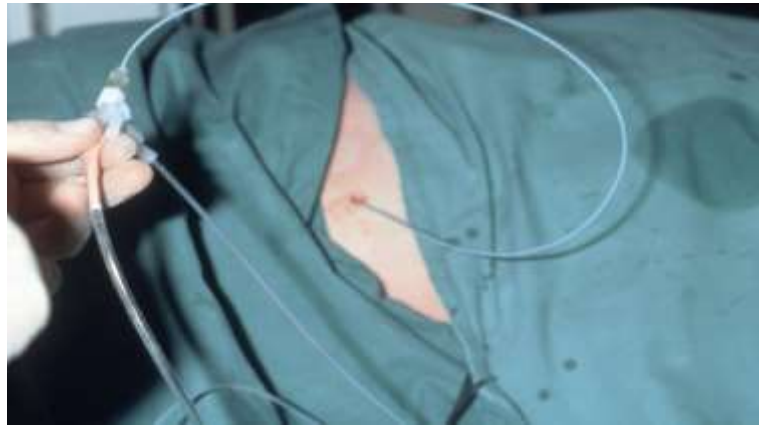
- Very good results when combined with renal graft with high levels of insulin independence and stabilisation / reversal of secondary complications
- Still major procedure, with significant morbidity and mortality
- Unlikely to ever be applicable to children without 2^o complications
- Is Risk / Benefit of PTA justifiable for treating hypoglycaemic unawareness alone?

Whole Pancreas vs Islets

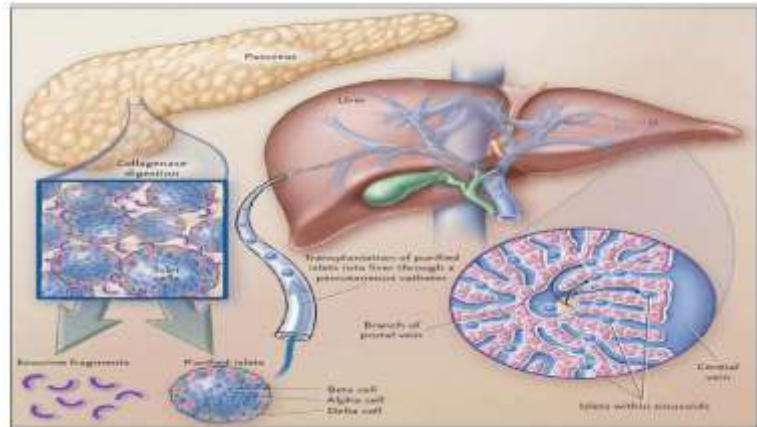


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Islet Transplantation



- Endocrine pancreas only
- Minimally invasive with minimal morbidity or mortality
- Can restore normal glucose homeostasis with coordinated secretion of all islet hormones
- Potential to immunomodulate islet graft or promote strategies for immune tolerance
- Techniques all potentially applicable to children



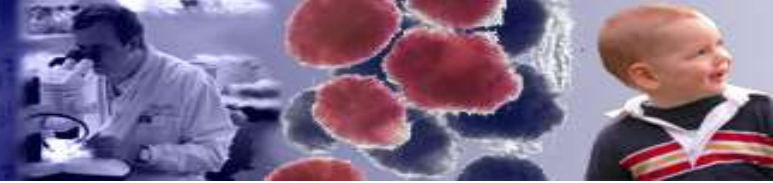
Islet Transplant Options

- **Diabetes with hypoglycaemia-unawareness**
 - Islet transplant alone (ITA)
- **Diabetes with renal failure**
 - Simultaneous islet + kidney (SIK)
 - Islet after kidney (IAK)
- **Surgically-induced diabetes**
 - Islet Auto-transplantation

Islet Transplant Options

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Whole Pancreas vs Islets!



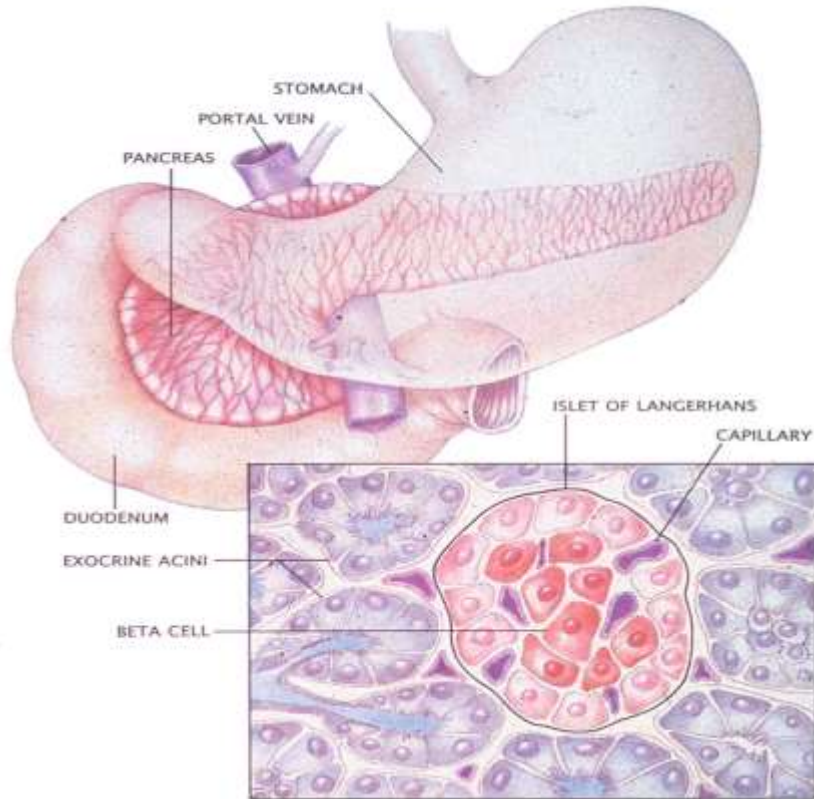
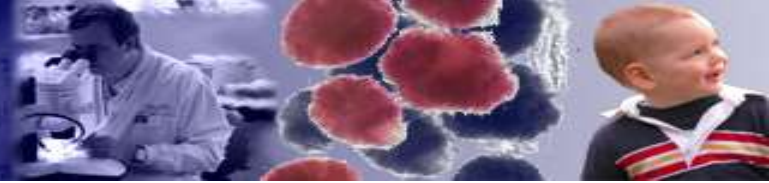
'Beta Cell Replacement'

Whole Pancreas
Transplantation,
Nephrology
Islet Transplantation,
Diabetology,
Stem-Cell Biology,
Bioengineering,
Nanotechnology



Methods

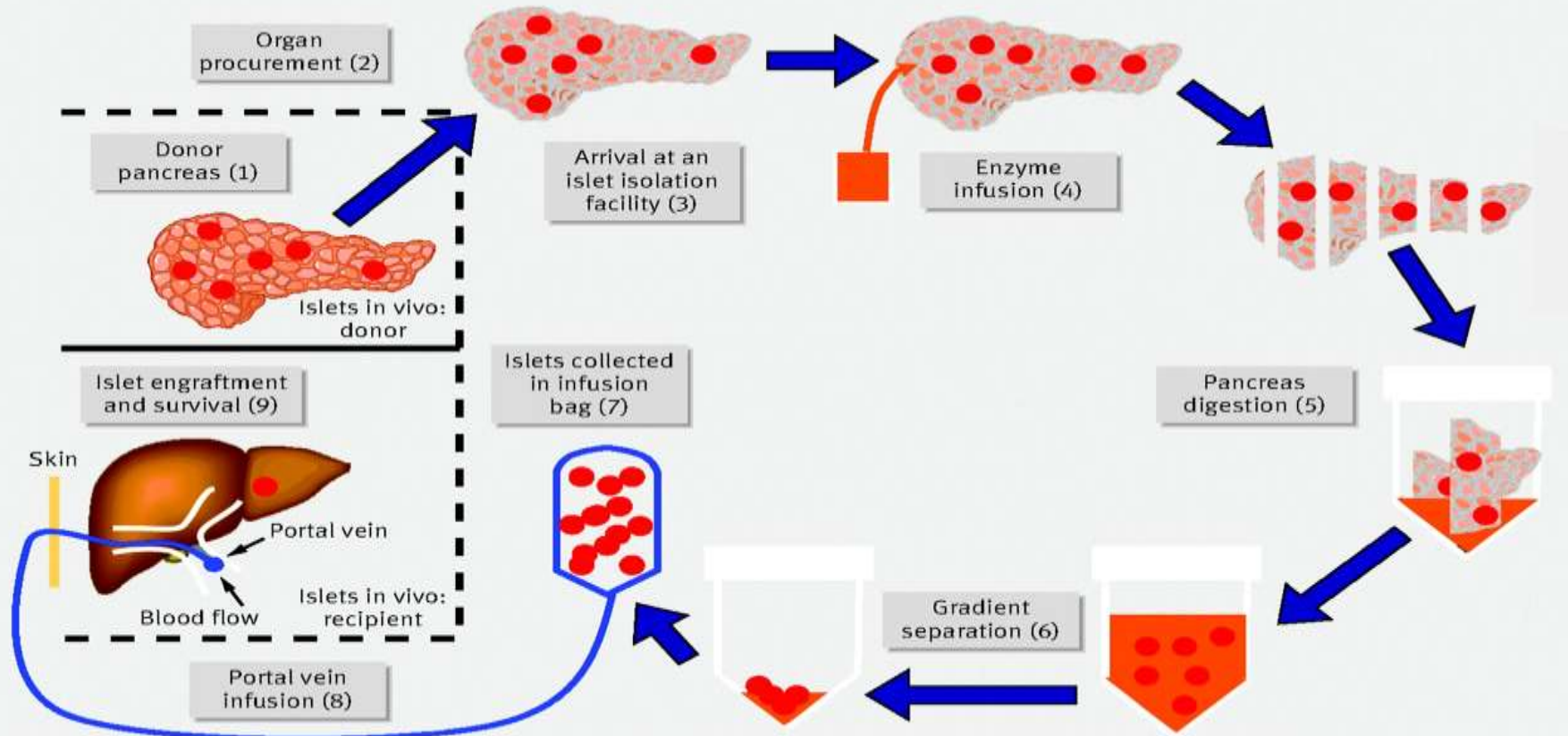
Human Islet Isolation



2 stages:

- Collagenase Digestion
(releasing islets)
- Density-Gradient
Purification
(separating islets)

Islet Isolation and Islet Transplantation



Islet Isolation Facility



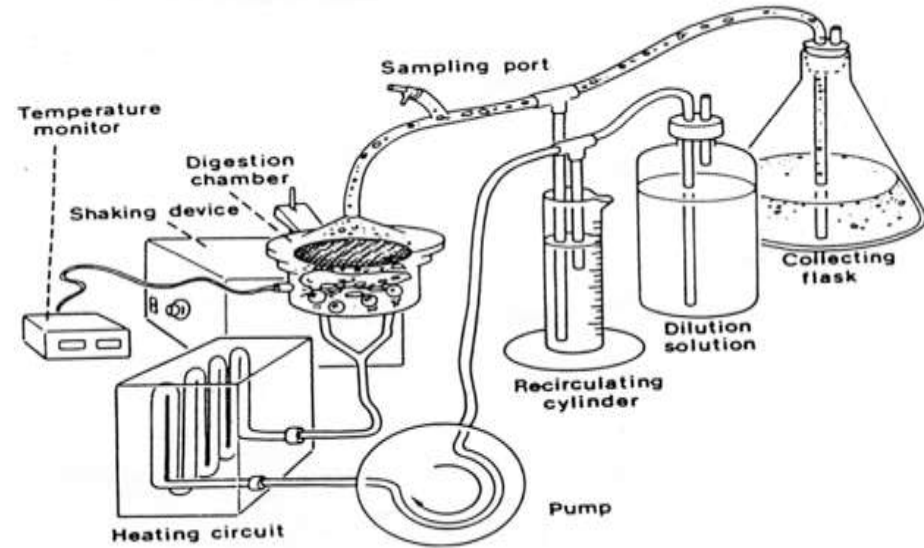


30/11/2012

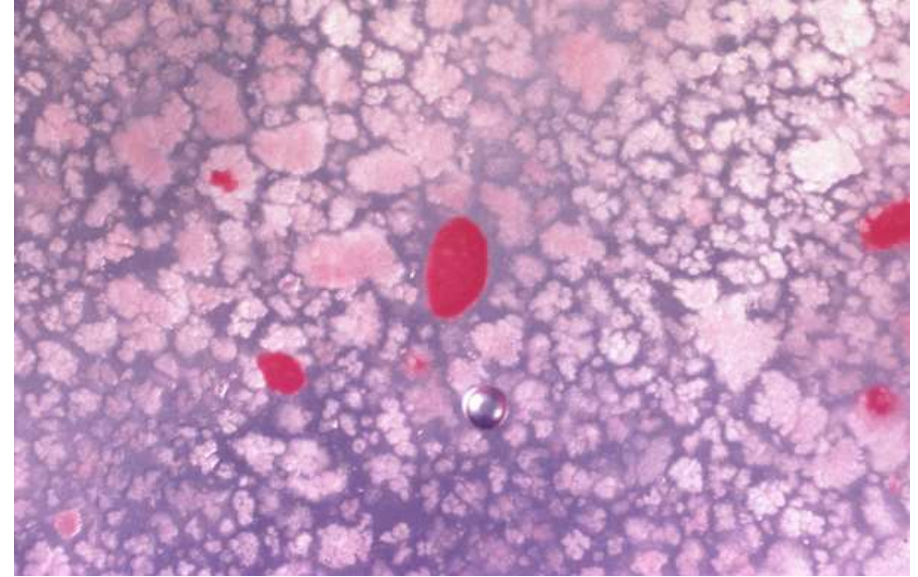
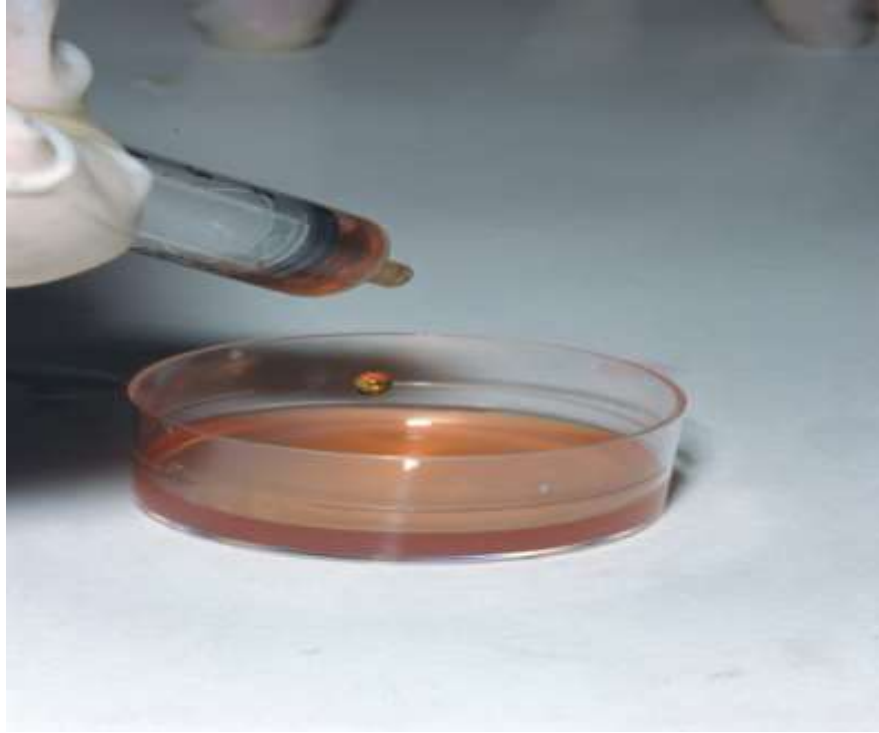
Dissection and Perfusion



Pancreas Digestion



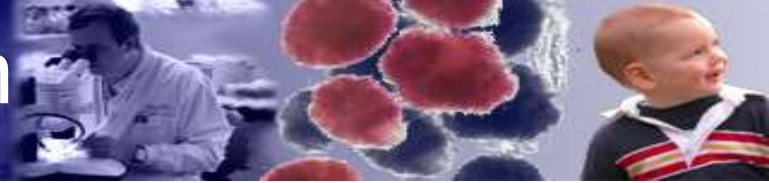
Monitoring Digestion



Optimal Digestion



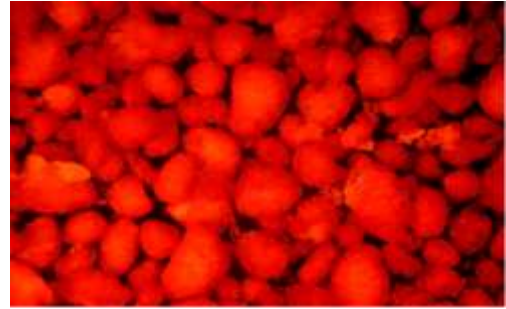
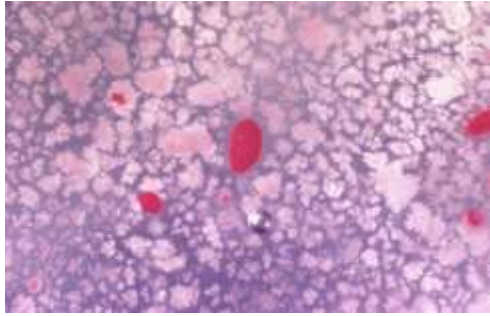
Density-Gradient Purification



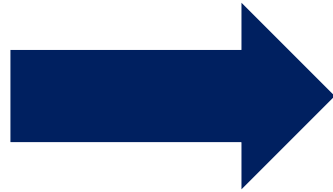
Continuous Density Gradient



Why purify?



20 – 50 ml

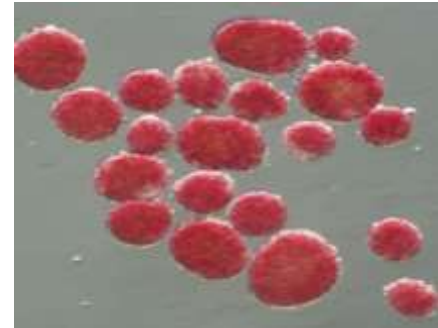


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Culture



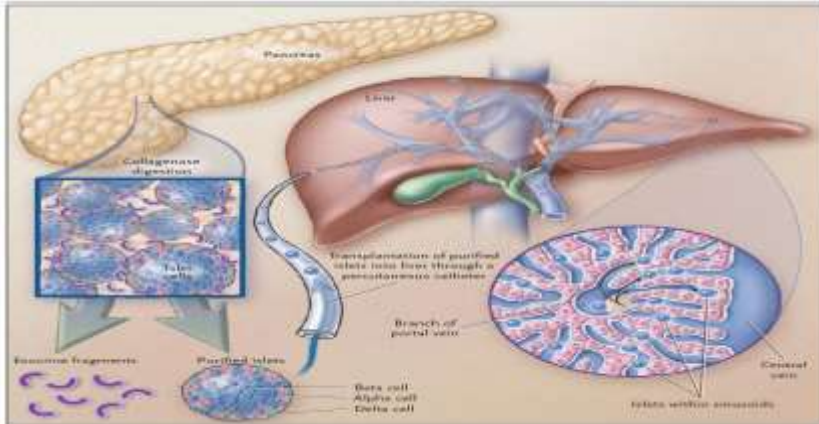
- Logistics
- Quality testing
- Patient pre-treatment



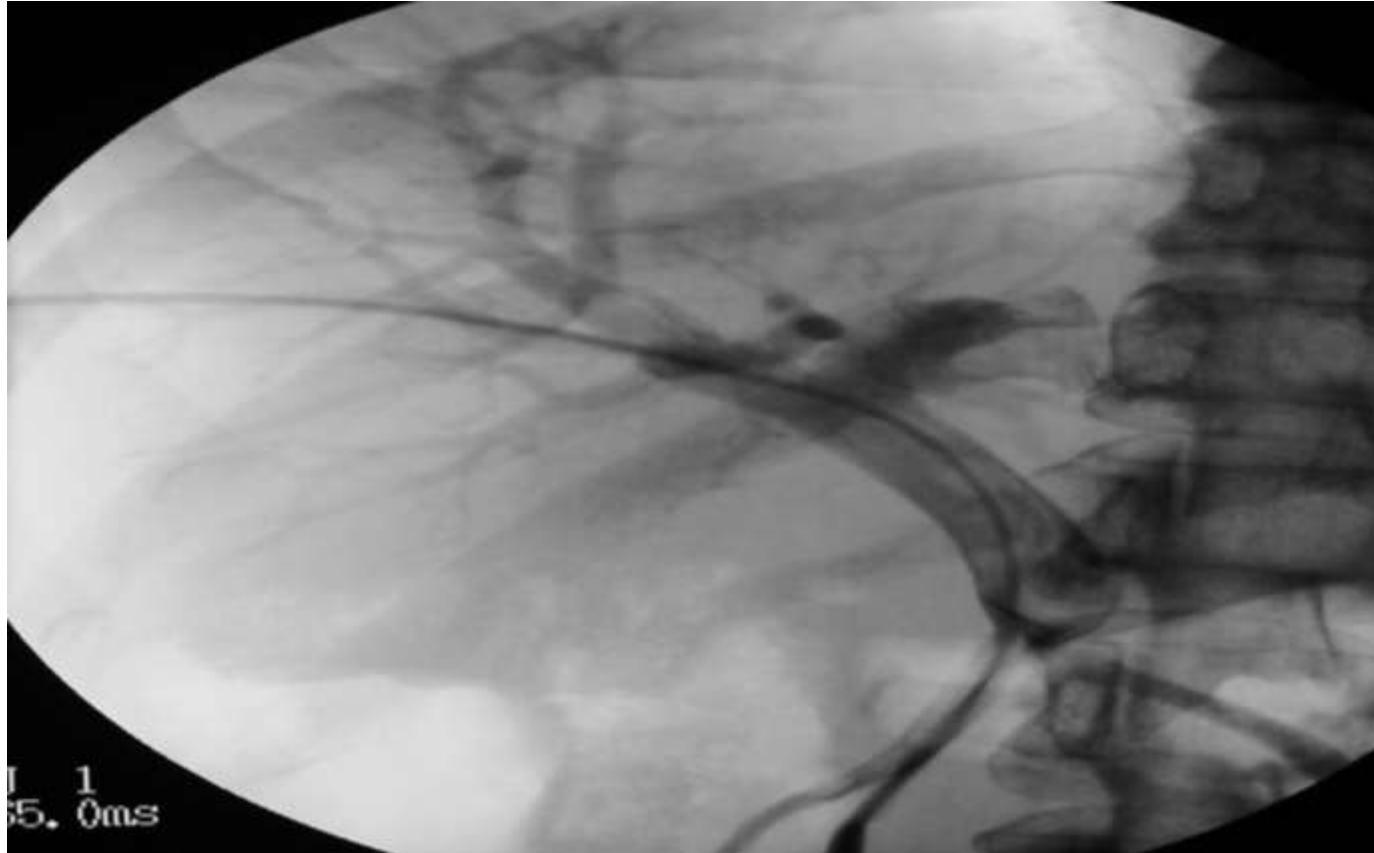
Islet Transplant (1)



- Percutaneous transhepatic approach via portal vein (or laparoscopic / mini-lap.)
- Antibiotic and Heparin cover
- Infuse over 20-30 minutes
- Monitor portal pressure throughout

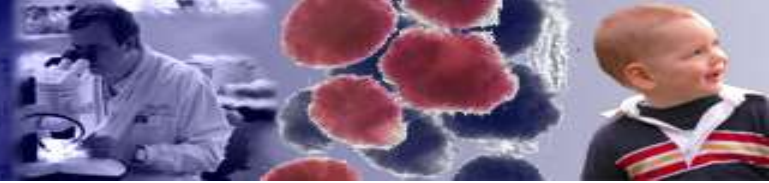


Islet Transplant (2)



Alternative Transplant Sites

- Spleen
- Omentum
- Forearm
- Kidney subcapsule
- Testis / Ovary / Eye



Current Results



History of Islet Tx

1980s



1990s



2000 - 2008



2008 - present

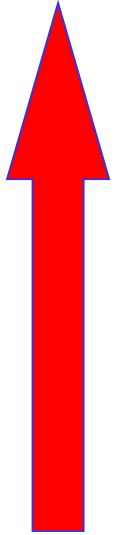
•Routine reversal of diabetes in animal models

•Translation to human studies with 493 transplants in 40 institutions

•Edmonton Protocol enables good outcomes of clinical islet transplantation for at least 1 year post transplantation

•More consistent outcomes with improved graft longevity

Bench



Bedside

Edmonton Protocol

The New England Journal of Medicine

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VOLUME 343

JULY 27, 2000

NUMBER 4



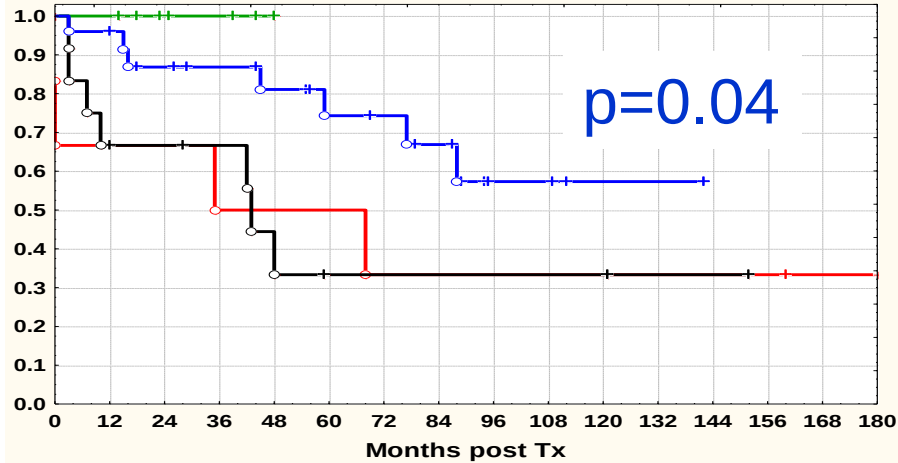
ISLET TRANSPLANTATION IN SEVEN PATIENTS WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES MELLITUS USING A GLUCOCORTICOID-FREE IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE REGIMEN

A.M. JAMES SHAPIRO, M.B., B.S., JONATHAN R.T. LAKEY, PH.D., EDMOND A. RYAN, M.D., GREGORY S. KORBUTT, PH.D.,
ELLEN TOTH, M.D., GARTH L. WARNOCK, M.D., NORMAN M. KNETEMAN, M.D., AND RAY V. RAJOTTE, PH.D.

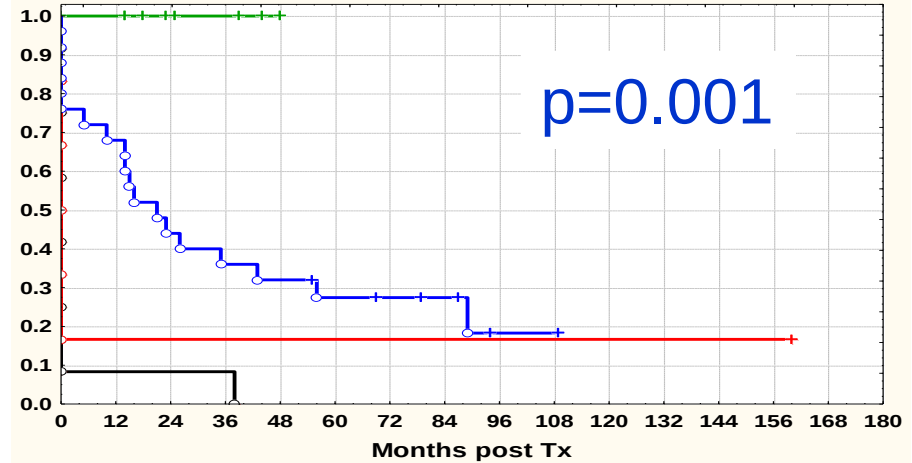
Geneva Results



Graft survival (C-peptide>0.5 ng/ml)



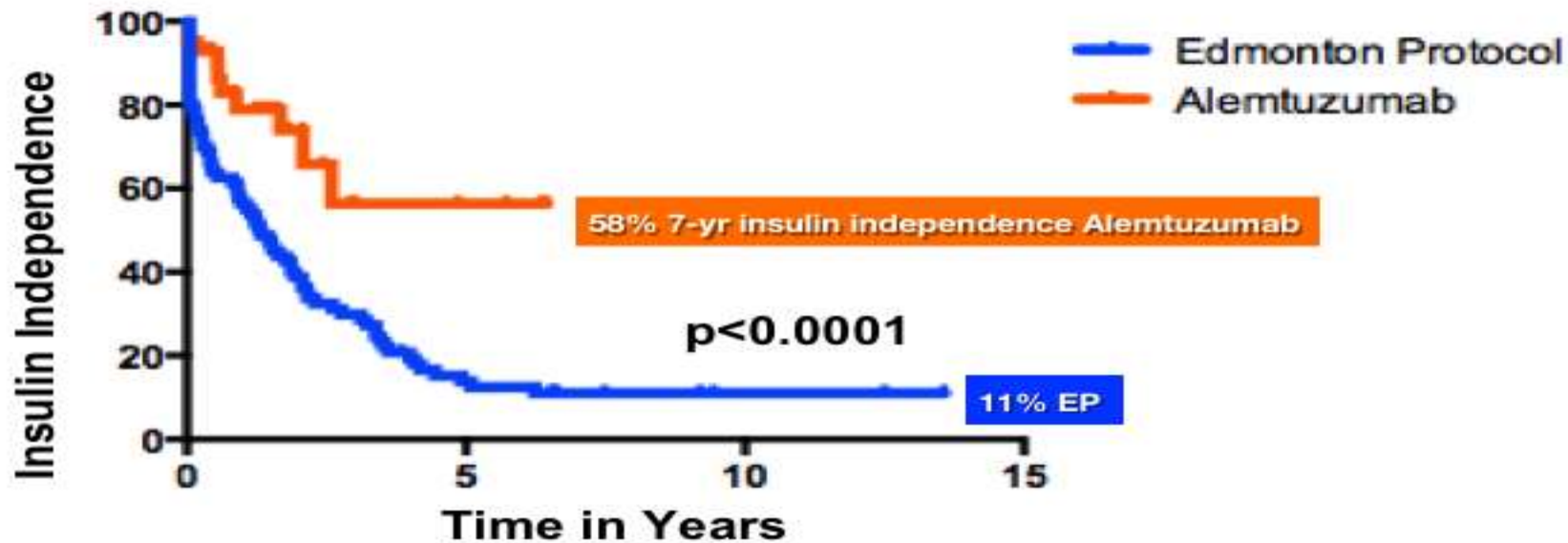
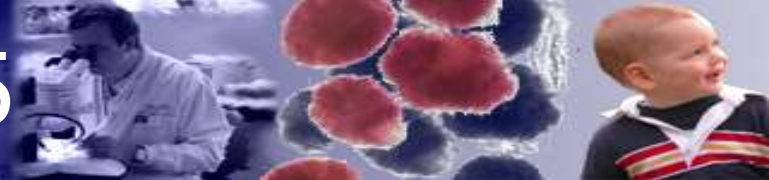
Insulin independence



- Era 1: 1992-1996, N=6
- Era 2: 1997-2000, N=12
- Era 3: 2001-2007, N=25
- Era 4: 2008-2012, N=11

(ATG - CsA - Aza - Steroids)
(anti-IL2R - FK - MMF - Steroids)
(anti-IL2R - Rapa - FK - Steroid-free)
(ATG - anti-TNF - FK - MMF - Steroid-free)

Edmonton Results 2015



5 Year II Rates

Bellin et al. Am J Transplant 2012; 12:1576

	3y II (%)	5yr II (%)
PTA	60%	52%
UMN-TCD	53%	50%
CITR-TCD	38%	41%
CITR-NTCD	33%	16%

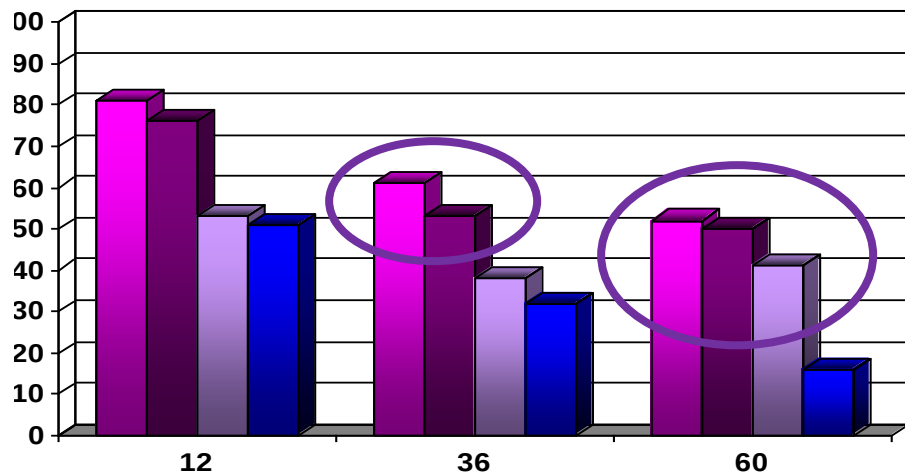
% Insulin Independent

□ A (N=249)

■ A-CITR TCD (N=73)

■ ITA-UMN TCD (N=21)

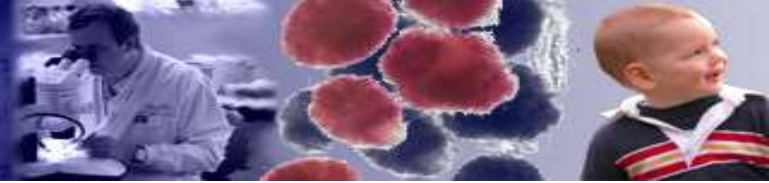
■ ITA-CITR-NTCD (N=211)



Months Post Last Transplant

No statistical difference

UK Islet Tx Programme



Oxford

Kings

Edinburgh

Bristol

Manchester

Newcastle

Royal Free



Isolation and Transplant



Transplant Only

UKITC

UK Islet Transplant Consortium

Selection Criteria

- **Established Type 1 diabetes for more than 5 years**
 - **>18 years old**
 - normal renal function or microalbuminuria
 - NOT if insulin dose more than 0.7U/kg

1) Recurrent severe hypoglycaemia >1 year

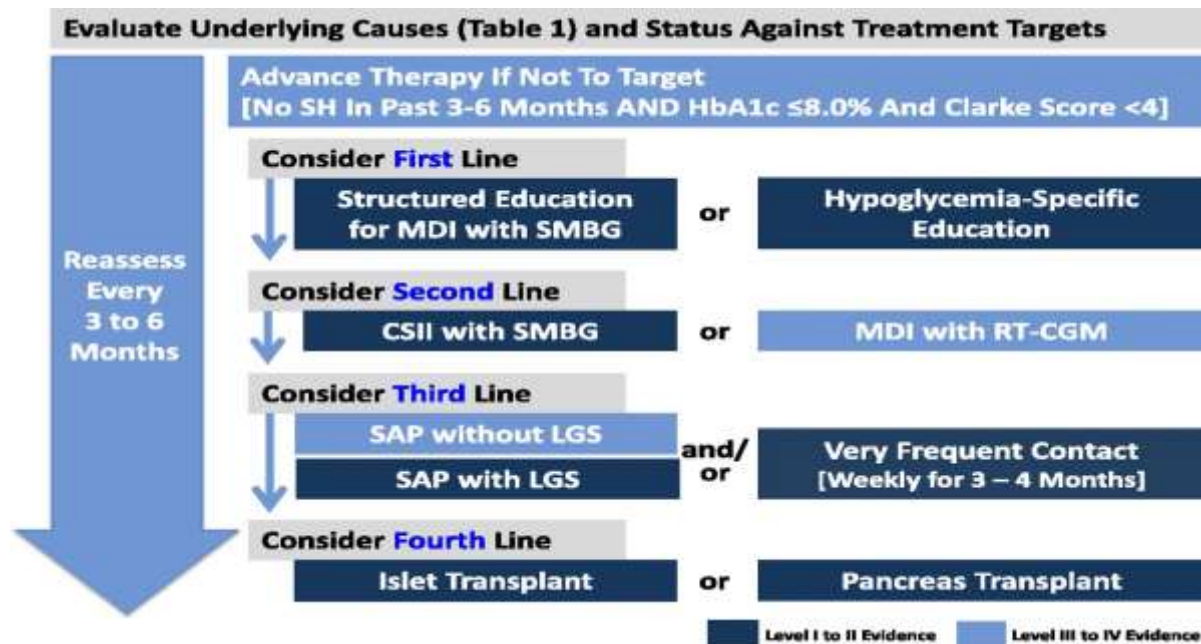
- documented evidence of glucose $<2\text{mmol/L}$
- despite compliance with intensified insulin regimen
- normal renal function or microalbuminuria

2) Sub-optimal control despite functioning renal graft

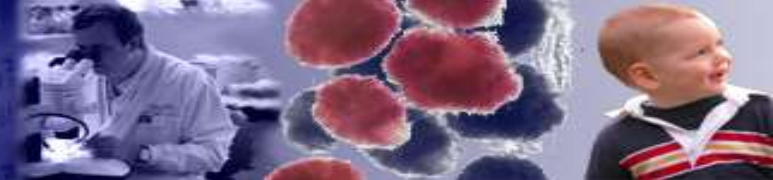
- severe hypoglycaemia; unstable diabetes
- HbA1c $>7\%$

Treatment of Hypoglycaemia

Proposed treatment algorithm for patients with T1D and problematic hypoglycemia.



Pratik Choudhary et al. Dia Care 2015;38:1016-1029

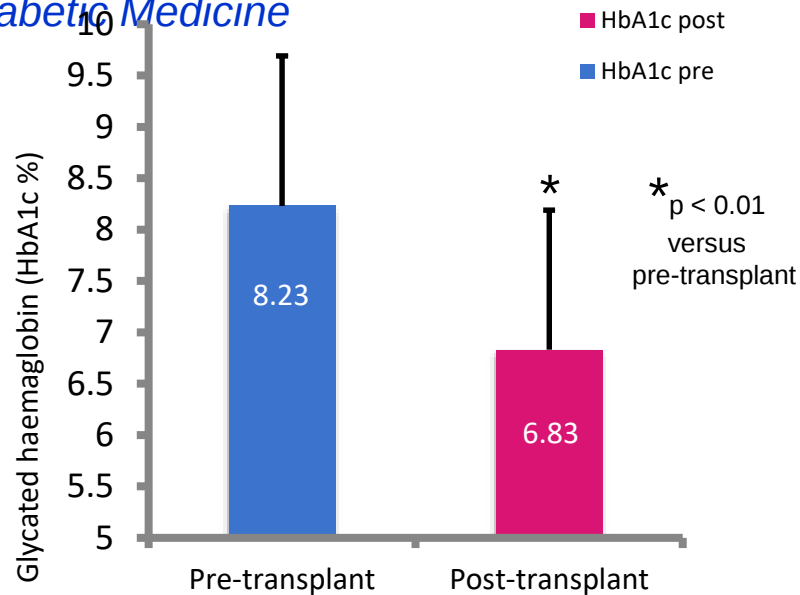
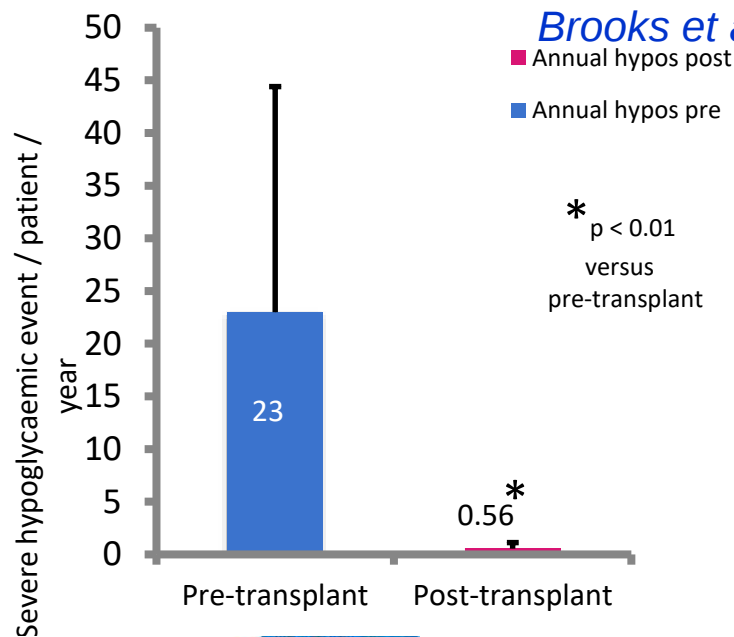


Primary Outcome Measures for Islet Tx

- Resolution of life-threatening hypoglycaemic unawareness
- Stabilisation of glycaemic control (HbA1C)
- NOT primarily insulin independence

Outcomes

Outcomes in 24 UK patients in first 3 years of NHS funded programme (April 2008 to March 2011)



CITC Phase 3 Trial



Diabetes Care

Diabetes Care 2016 Jul; 39(7): 1230-1240.

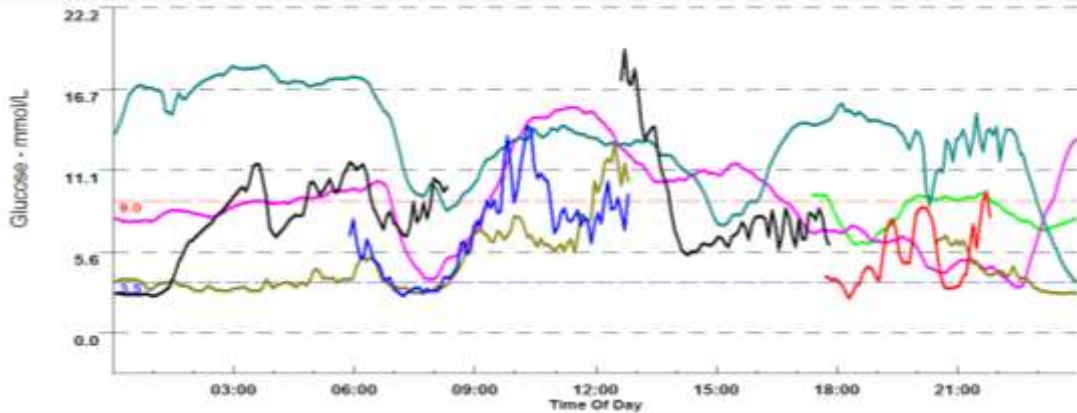
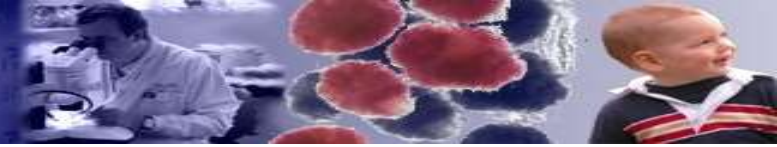
Phase 3 Trial of Transplantation of Human Islets in Type 1 Diabetes Complicated by Severe Hypoglycemia

Bernhard J. Hering¹, William R. Clarke²↑, Nancy D. Bridges³, Thomas L. Eggerman⁴, Rodolfo Alejandro⁵,

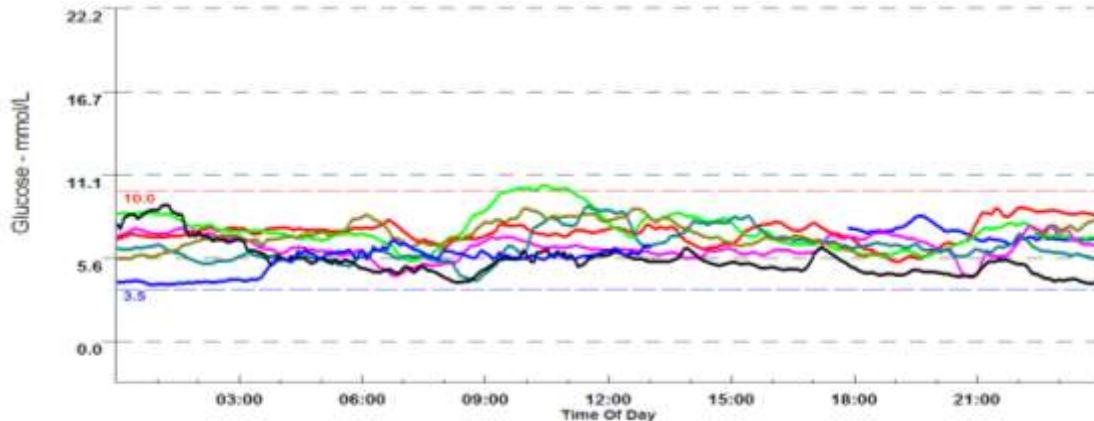
Melena D. Bellin⁶, Kathryn Chaloner²,[†], Christine W. Czarniecki³, Julia S. Goldstein³, Lawrence G. Hunsicker², Dixon B. Kaufman⁷, Olle Korsgren⁸, Christian P. Larsen⁹, Xunrong Luo¹⁰, James F. Markmann¹¹, Ali Naji¹², Jose Oberholzer¹³, Andrew M. Posselt¹⁴, Michael R. Rickels¹², Camillo Ricordi⁵, Mark A. Robien³, Peter A. Senior¹⁵, A.M. James Shapiro¹⁵, Peter G. Stock¹⁴ and Nicole A. Turgeon⁹ for the Clinical Islet Transplantation Consortium*

- Primary end-points were freedom from severe hypoglycaemic events Day 28-365 and an HbA1C of <7% at Day 365
- Achieved in 87.5% at 1 year; 71% at 2 years

Patient RML after 12 months



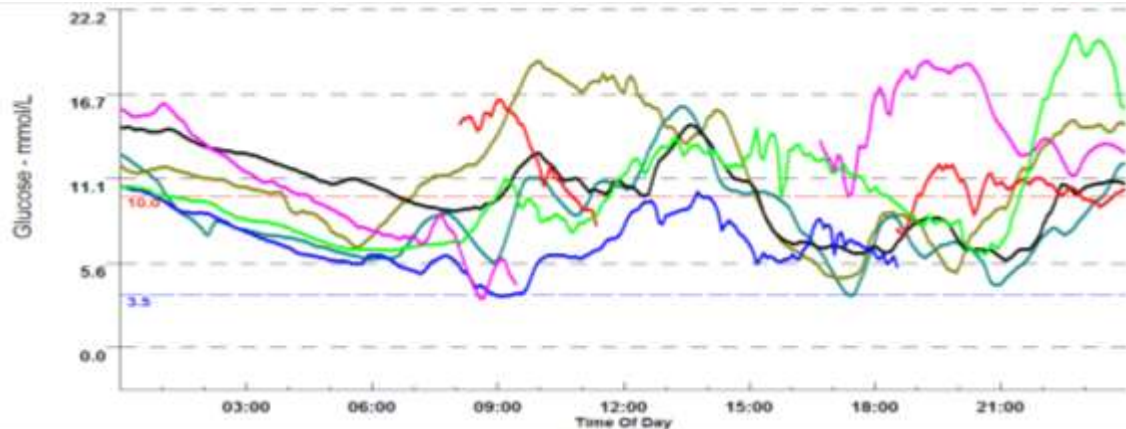
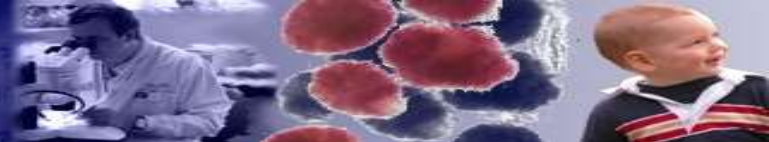
HbA1c 7.0%



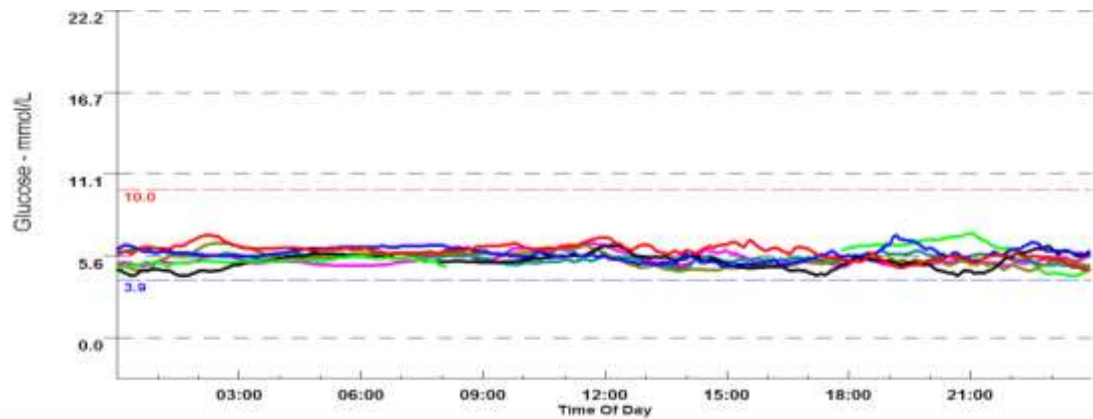
HbA1c 5.1%

100% Insulin Reduction

Patient CH after 11 months



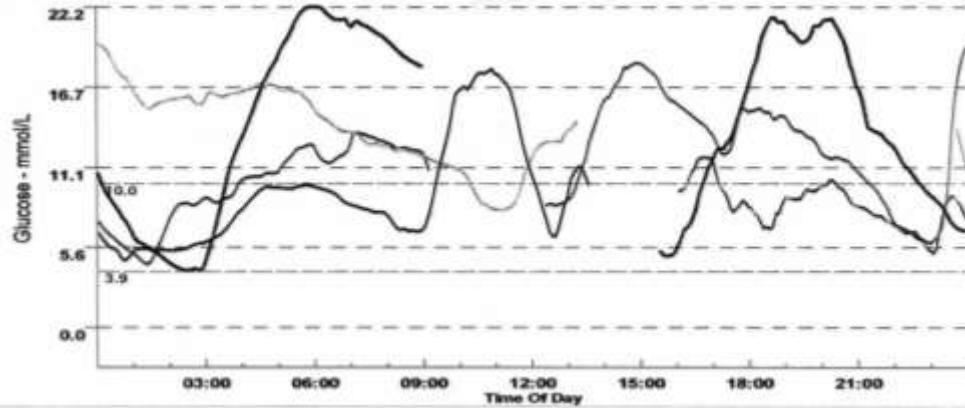
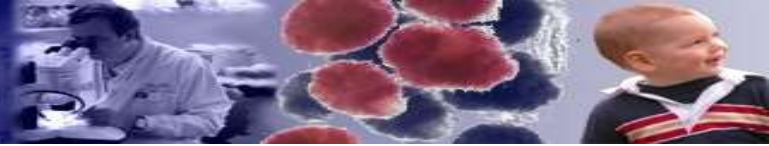
HbA1c 7.7%



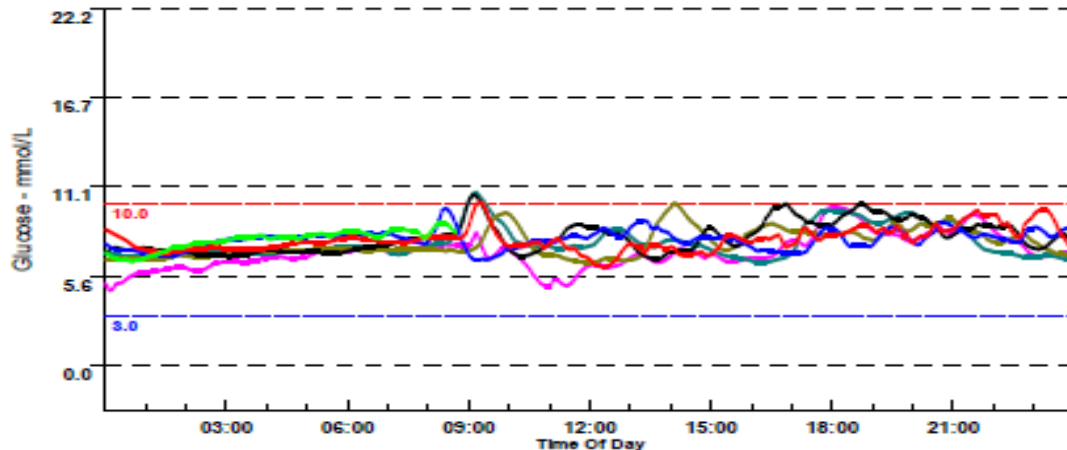
HbA1c 5.3%

Insulin Reduction 85%

Distributed Islets to Newcastle 1yr



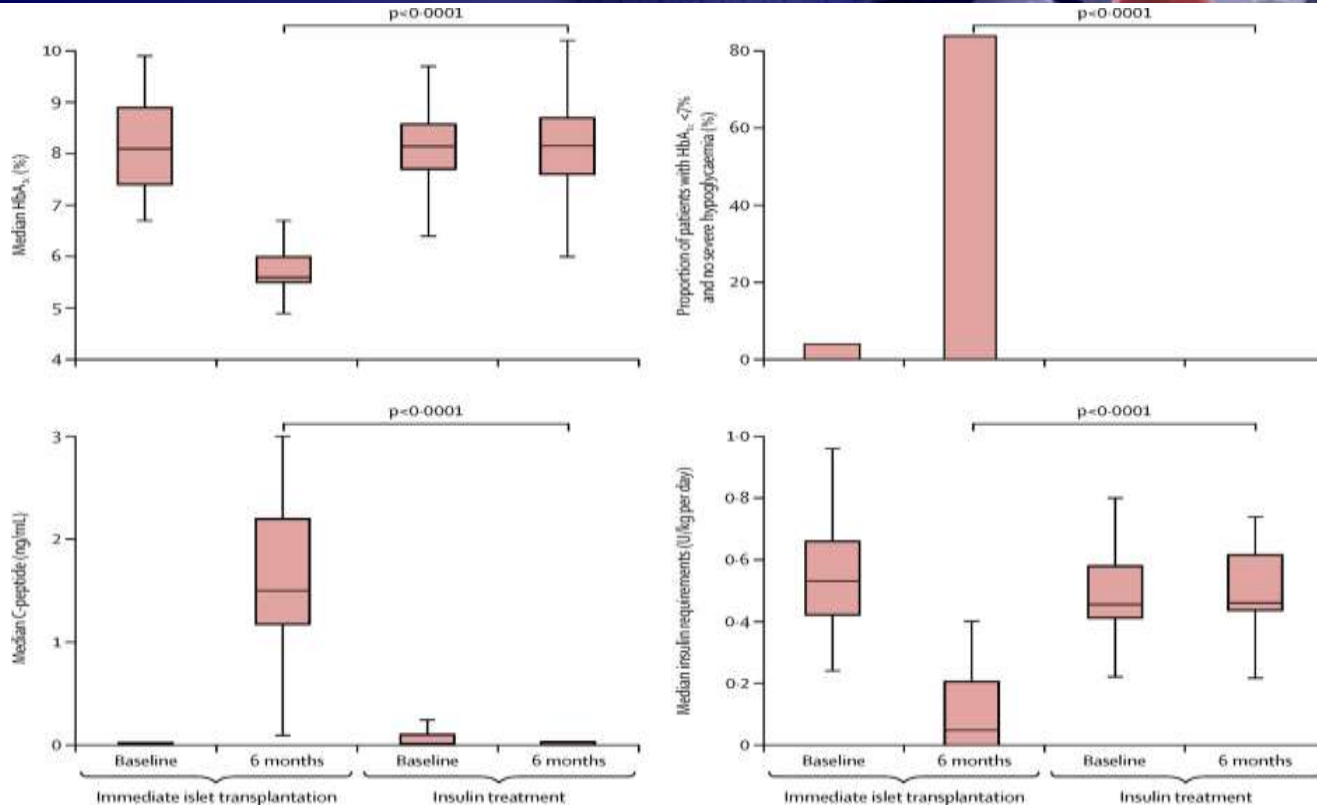
HbA1c 9.6%



HbA1c 6.3%

Insulin Reduction 100%

TRIMECO Trial



Lablanche et al. Lancet Diab. And Endocrinol.2018; (6):7

Benefits of Graft Function (C-peptide +ve)

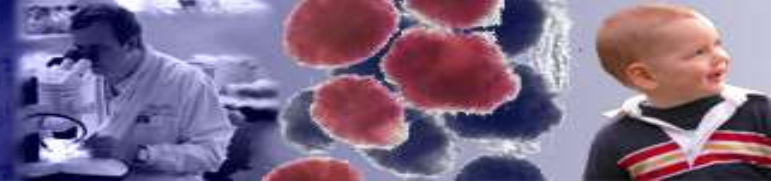


TABLE 2. Annual rate of change in GFR by ^{99m}Tc -DTPA and MDRD in the medical and post-ICT groups

Δ GFR (mL/min/1.73 m ² /yr)	Medical (95% CI)	ICT (95% CI)	<i>P</i>
^{99m}Tc -DTPA all subjects	-2.98 (-1.81 to -4.15)	-1.27 (-0.50 to -2.04)	<0.0001
≥ 2 -yr follow-up	-4.79 (-2.44 to -7.14)	-1.42 (-0.44 to -2.40)	<0.0001
≥ 3 -yr follow-up	-3.55 (-1.53 to -5.57)	-1.40 (-0.32 to -2.48)	<0.0001
MDRD all subjects	-3.53 (-2.49 to -4.57)	-1.49 (-1.06 to -1.92)	<0.0001

GFR, glomerular filtration rate; ICT, islet cell transplantation; DTPA, ^{99m}Tc -diethylenetriaminepentaacetate; MDRD, modification of diet in renal disease; CI, confidence interval.

Improved microangiopathy

Vancouver, ITA

TABLE 3. Progression of diabetic retinopathy in the medical and post-ICT groups

	Medical		ICT	
	No. eyes	No. progressed	No. eyes	No. progressed
Mild NPDR	16	0	8	0
Moderate NPDR	19	1	12	0
Severe NPDR	6	2	2	0
PDR	41	7	29	0
Total	82	10 ^a	51	0 ^a

^a The progression is significantly more in the medical than the post-ICT group ($P < 0.01$).

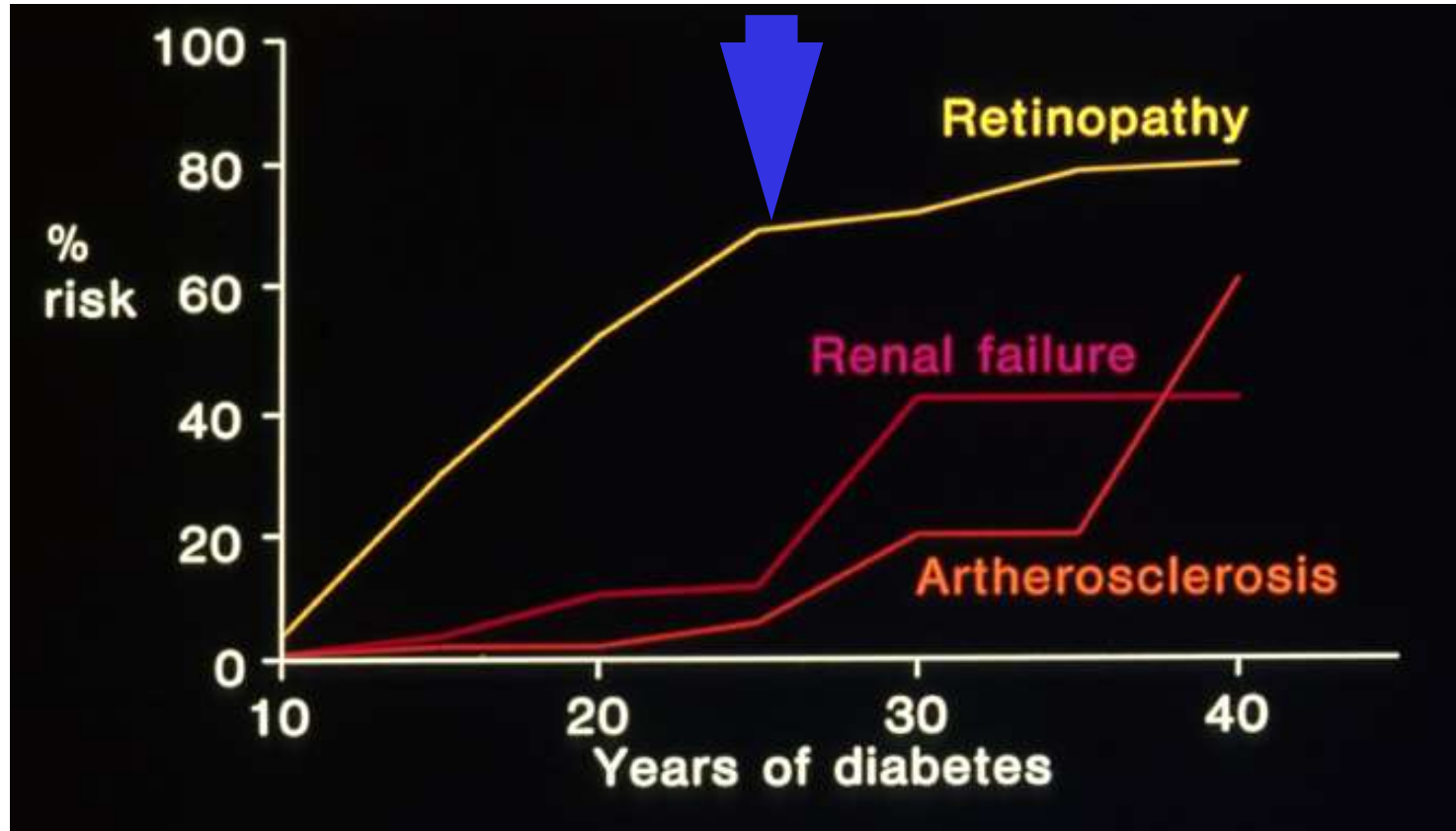
ICT, islet cell transplantation; NPDR, nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy; PDR, proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

Thompson et al. Transplantation 2011; 91: 373.

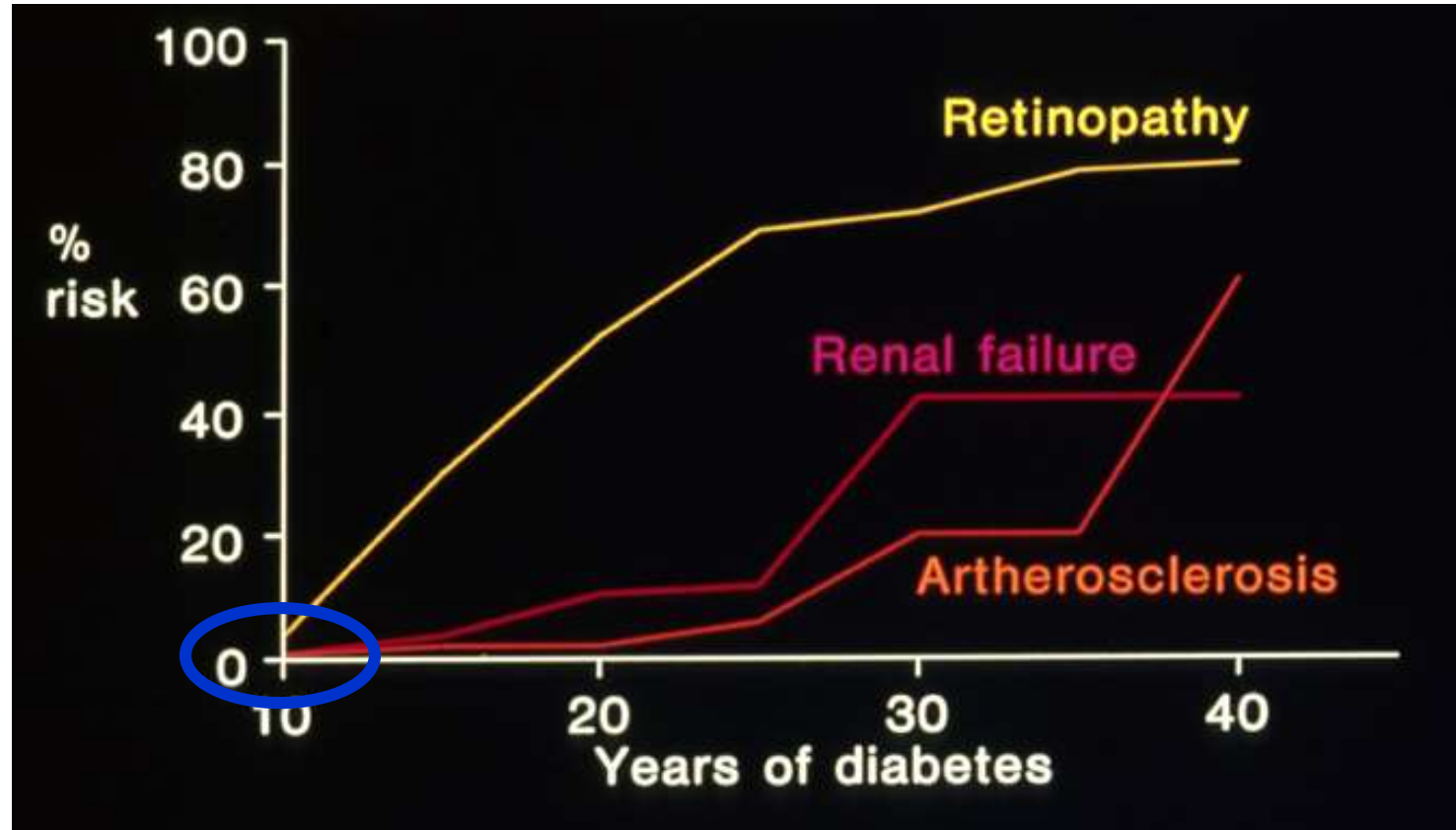
Ongoing Challenges and Future Opportunities



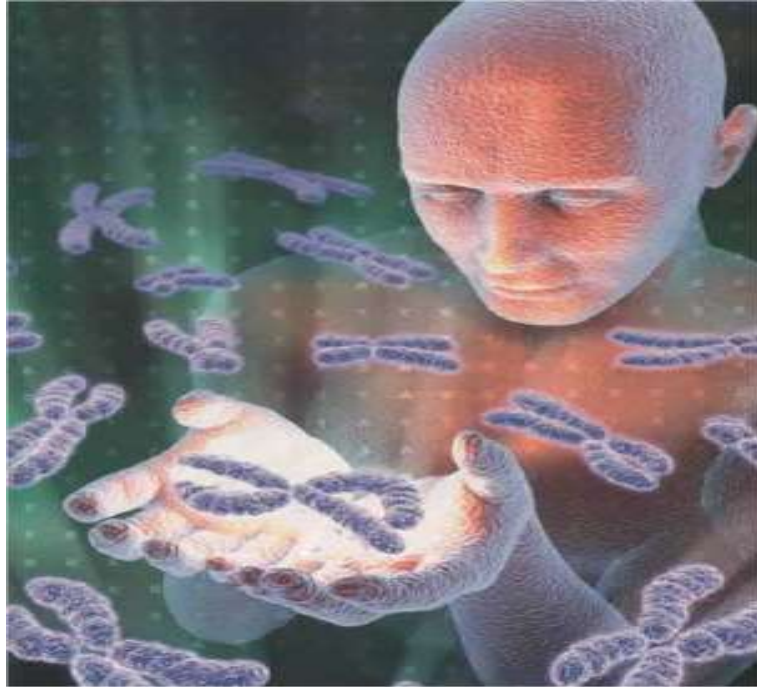
Current Era



Next Era

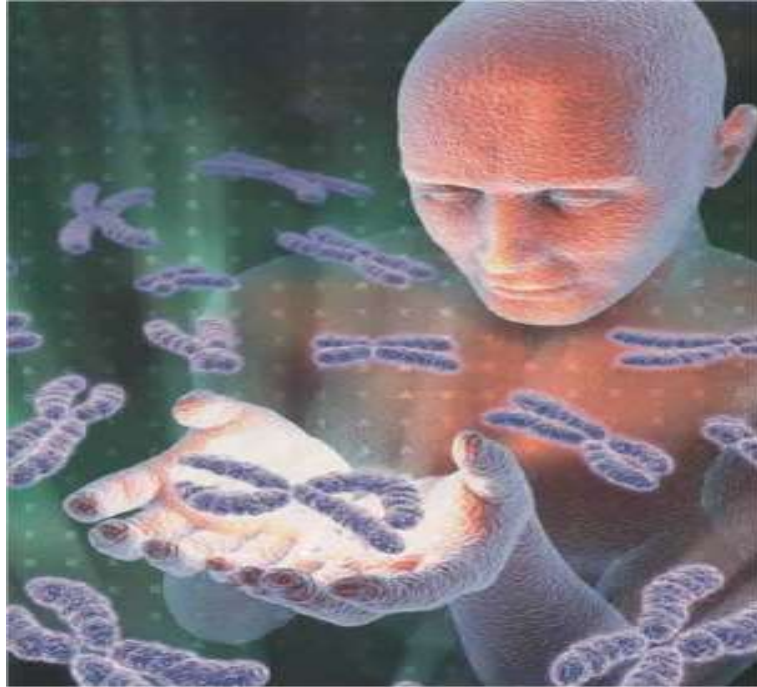


Moving Islet Tx to Children



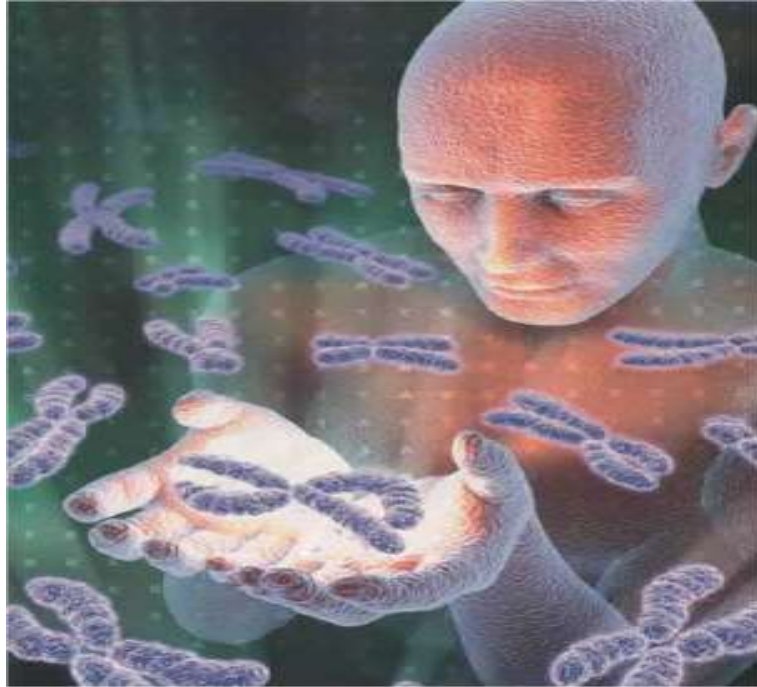
- 1. Optimise Islet Isolation**
(from pancreas procurement to targeted donor-specific pancreas digestion)
- 2. Improve Islet Graft Survival**
(novel strategies of pre-transplant islet conditioning / islet modification)
- 3. Availability of Non-Cadaveric Renewable Islet Source**
(xenogeneic or islet stem cells)
- 4. Development of immunosuppressive-free immune strategies**
(tolerance or immuno-isolation)

Moving Islet Tx to Children



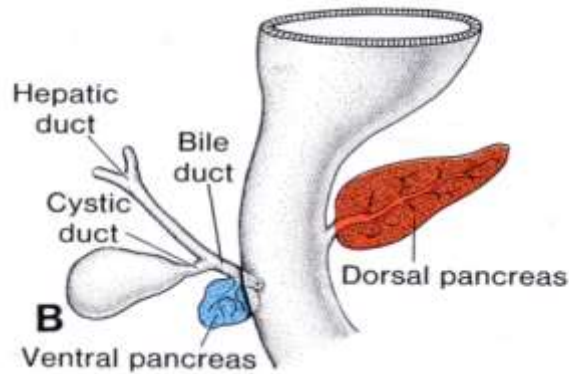
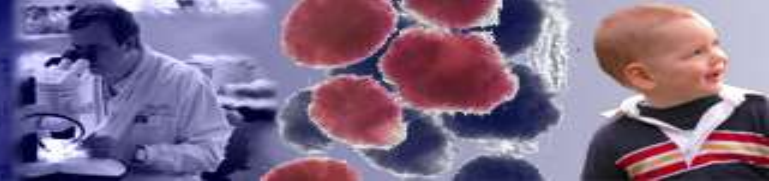
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- 2. Improve Islet Graft Survival**
(novel strategies of pre-transplant islet conditioning / islet modification)
- 3. Availability of Non-Cadaveric Renewable Islet Source**
(xenogeneic or islet stem cells)
- 4. Development of immunosuppressive-free immune strategies**
(tolerance or immuno-isolation)

Moving Islet Tx to Children



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Alternative Islet Sources



CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing leads to a strong revival of xenotransplantation

Endocrine progenitor

Ngn3

Isl1 *NeuroD* *Insm1*

Nkx2.2

Pax6
Pax4

Nkx2.2
Nkx6.1
Hlxb9

Pax6
Arx
Nkx2.2

Pax6
Pax4

Foxa2

ϵ -cell
(ghrelin⁺)

PP-cell

β -cell
(insulin⁺)

α -cell
(glucagon⁺)

δ -cell
(somatostatin⁺)

CORNEA
Pig corneas were approved for marketing in China in April.

HEART
A genetically modified pig heart implanted in a baboon's abdomen survived for 2.5 years.

LUNG
A factory farm is being designed to produce 1,000 pig lungs per year.

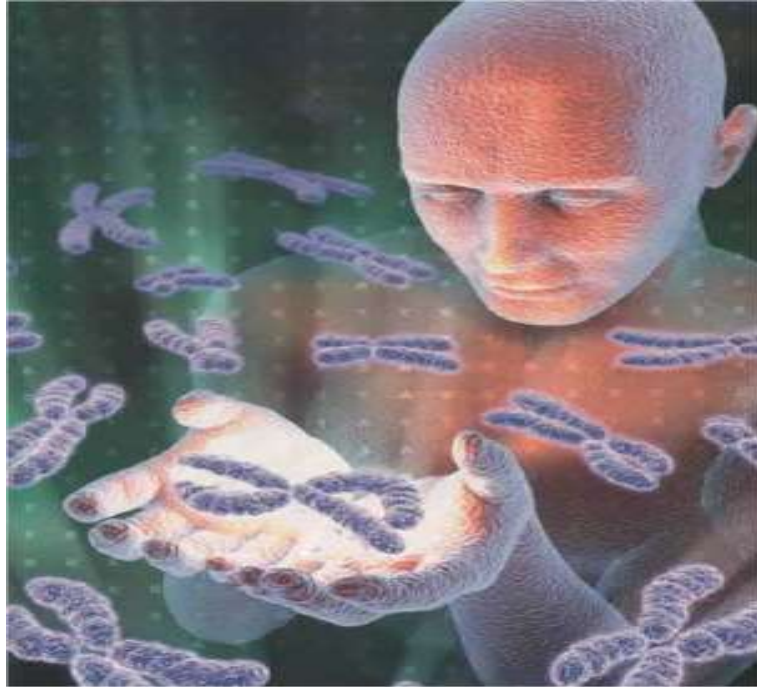
KIDNEY
A kidney with six genetic modifications supported a baboon's life for 4 months.

PANCREAS
Phase III clinical trials of insulin-producing islet cells are under way.

LIVER
Livers could be engineered to produce their own antibodies against primate immune cells.

Reardon, Nature 2015
Yang et al Science 2015

Moving Islet Tx to Children

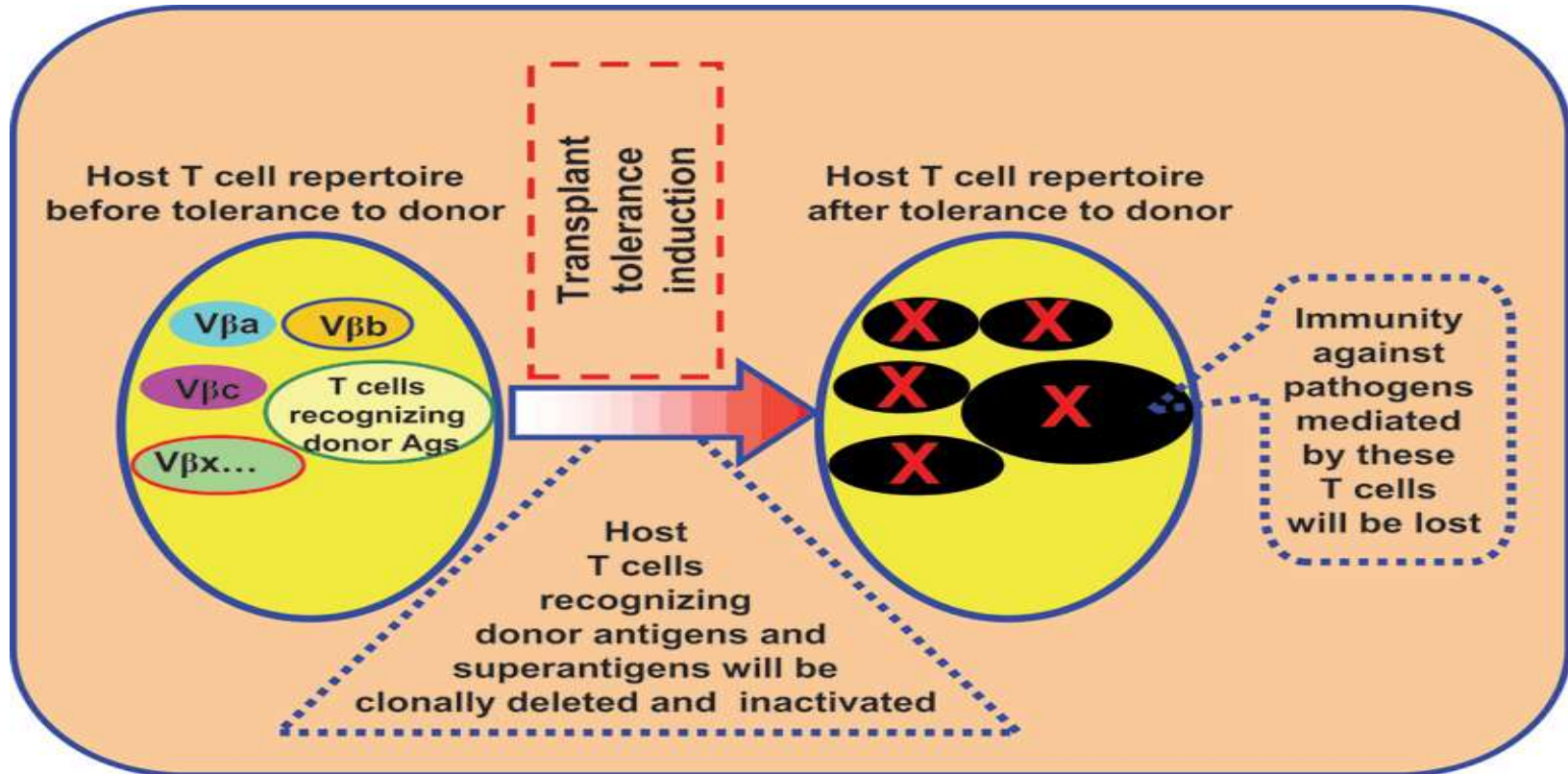


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Immune Strategies

- Immunoalteration (Immune Tolerance)
- Immunoisolation (Micro- and Macro-Encapsulation)

Immune Tolerance



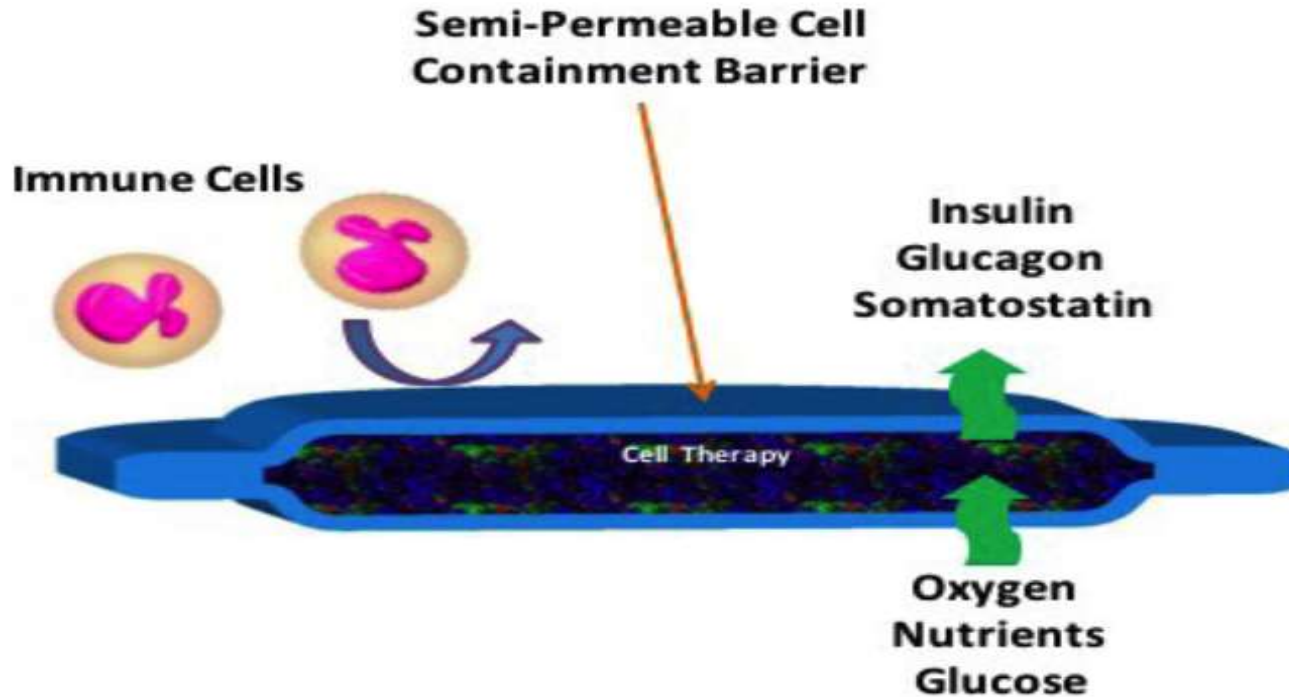
Immune Strategies

- Immunoalteration (Immune Tolerance)
- Immunoisolation (Micro- and Macro-Encapsulation)

Micro-encapsulation



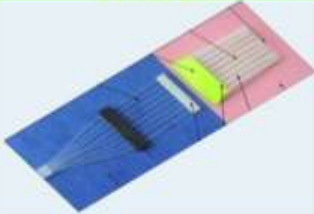
Macro-encapsulation



Macro-encapsulation

1st intention

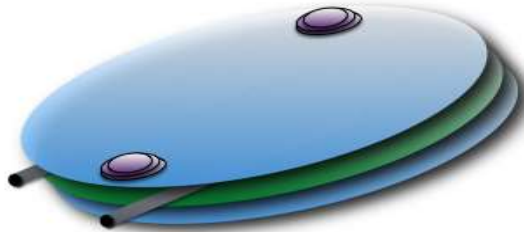
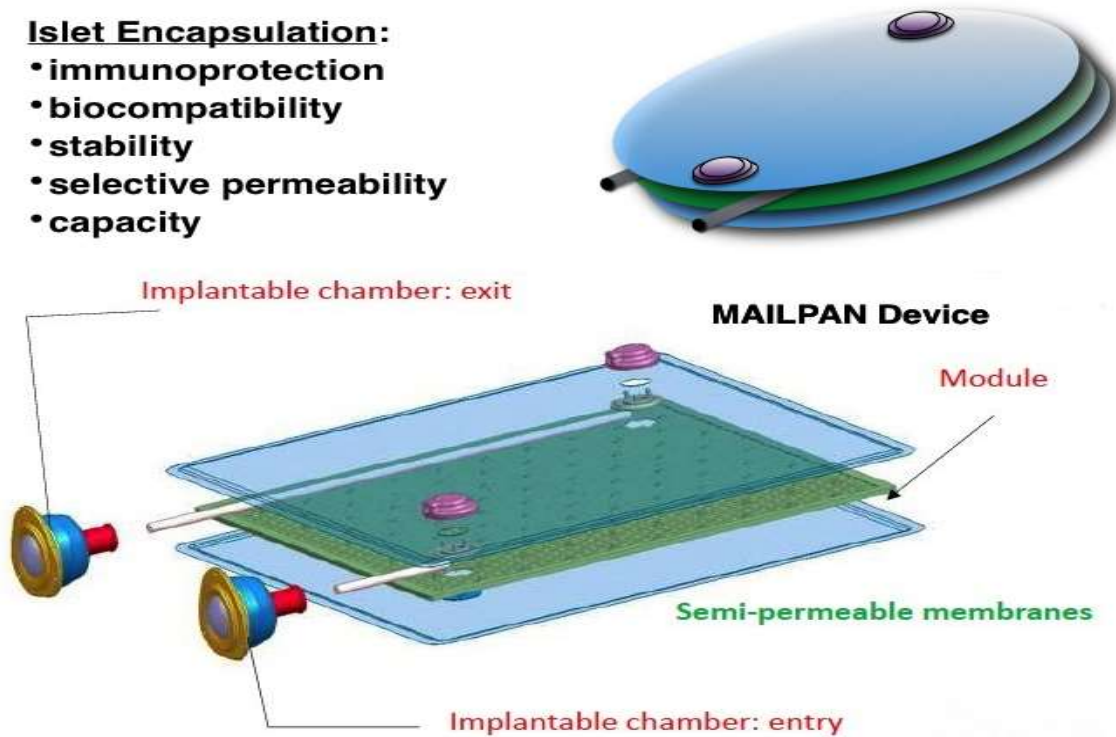


	SERNOVA CORP	Beta-O2	VIACYTE	DEFYMED
Implantation site	Sub-cutaneous	Extra-peritoneal	Sub-cutaneous	Extra-peritoneal
Filling/Emptying of cells	Yes <i>But Invasiveness to be assessed</i>	No	Yes (Unique Entry/Exit)	Yes (Separate Entry/Exit)
Cell type for clinical trials	Human islets	Human islets	Stem cells	Human islets
Cell number	Sufficient	Sufficient	Non-sufficient	Sufficient
Stage of development	Phase I/II-a clinical	Phase I/II-a clinical	Phase I/II-a clinical	Preclinical
How does it look like?				

MAILPAN Device

Islet Encapsulation:

- immunoprotection
- biocompatibility
- stability
- selective permeability
- capacity

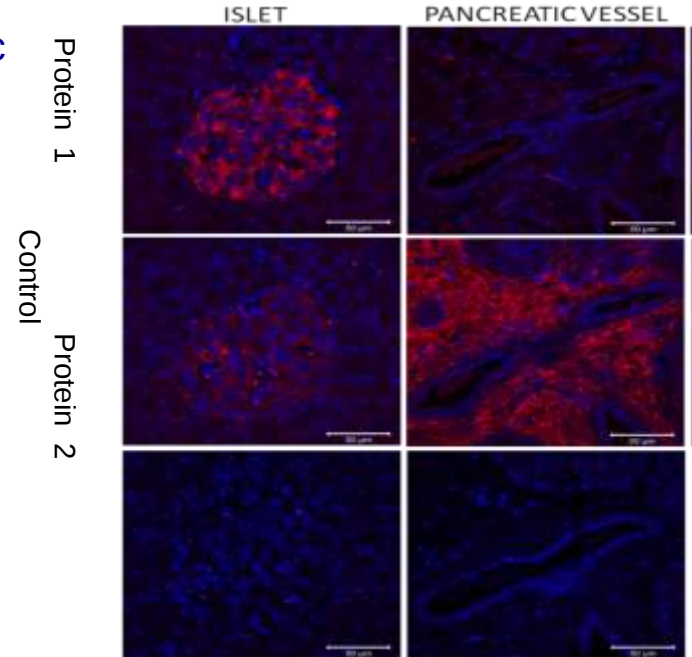
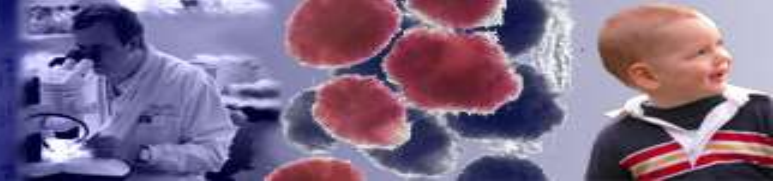
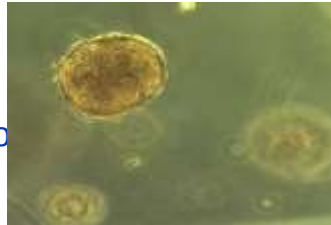


β -Gel

Mimics the pancreas extracellular matrix (ECM)

- Composed of native ECM molecules pancreatic proteins (to support and support islets)
- Oxygen producing particles
- Provides structure and spacing to islets

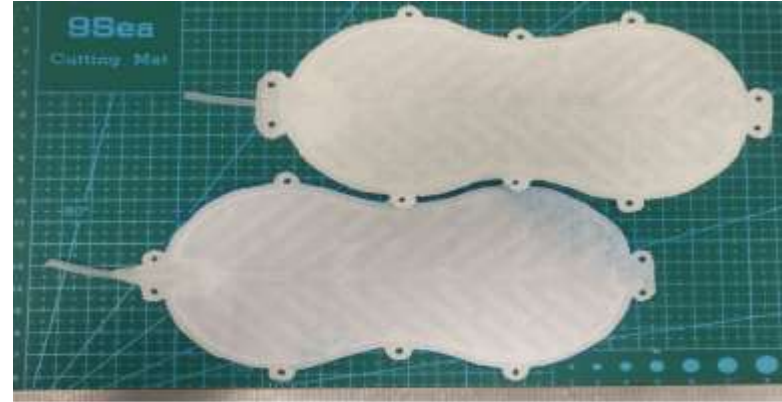
β -Gel will support the



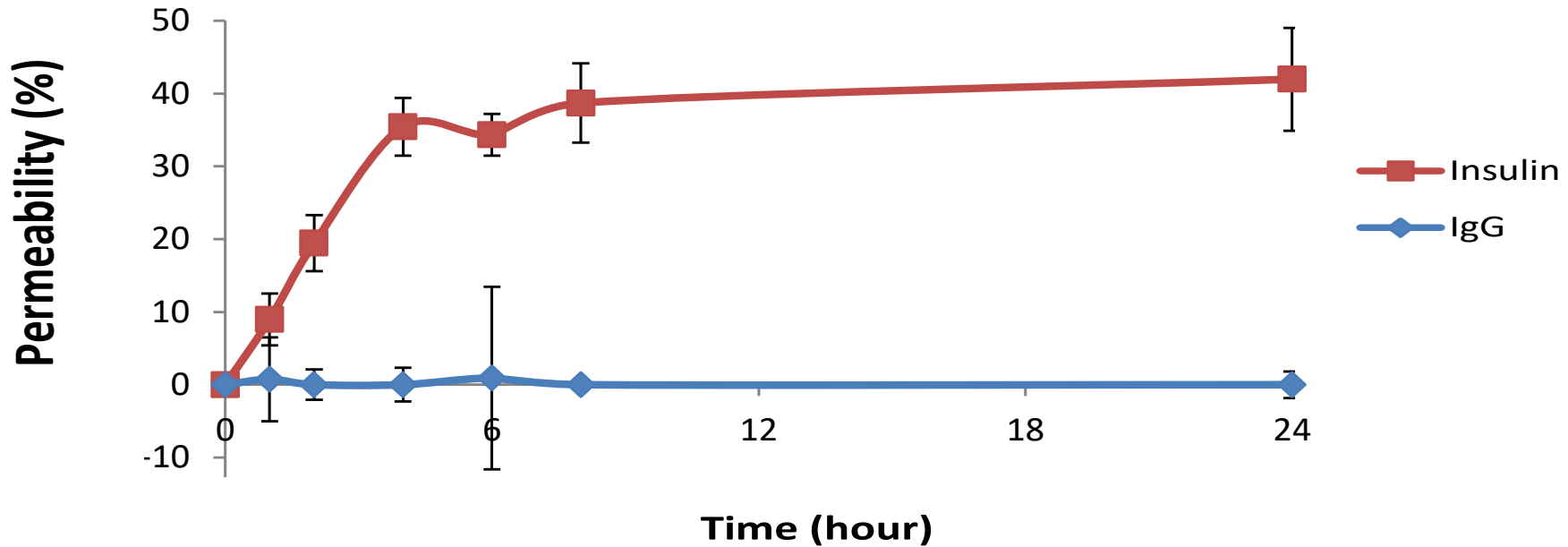
β -Shell

A smart biocompatible implant for delivery of β -Gel to an extra-vascular site

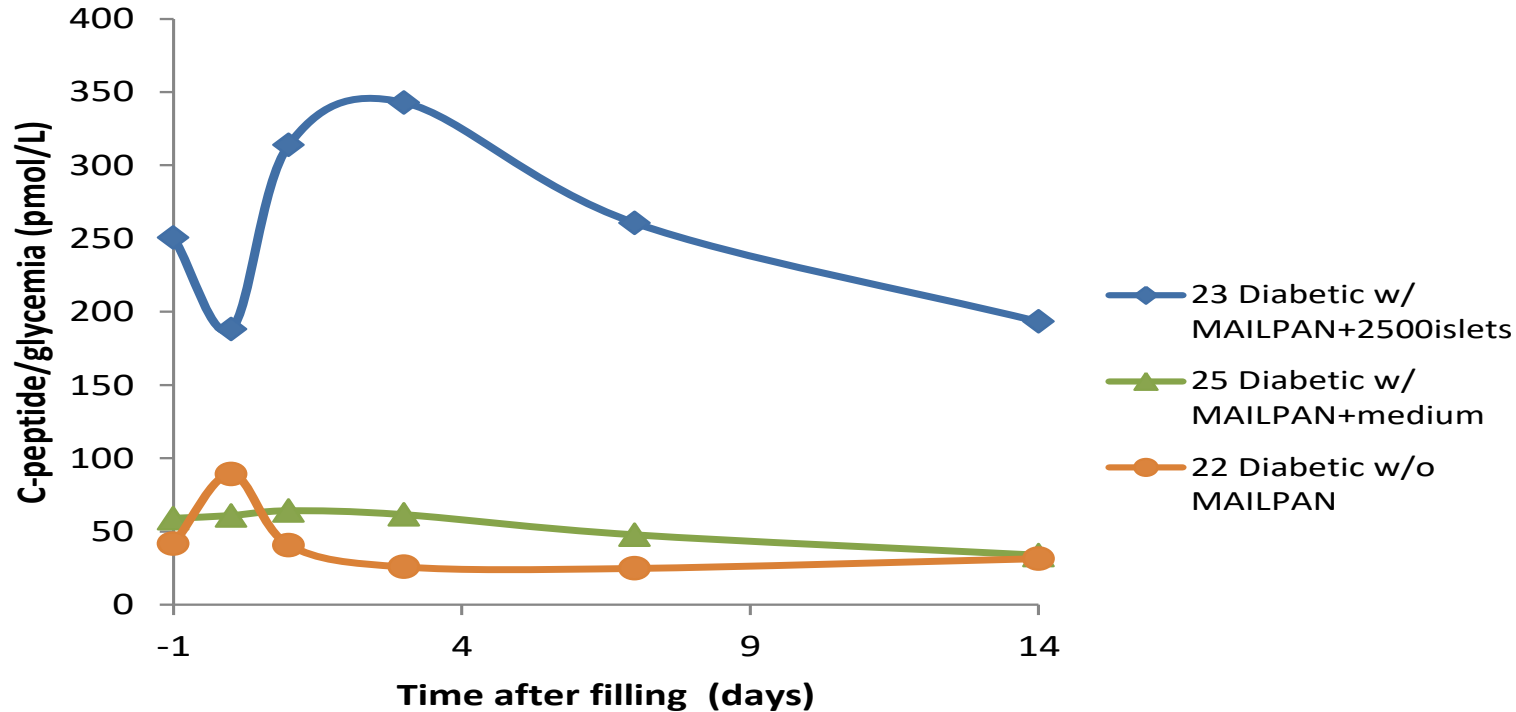
- Drug eluting shell for enhanced bio-integration
- Engineered to selectively isolate immune system cells while allowing insulin and glucose transport.



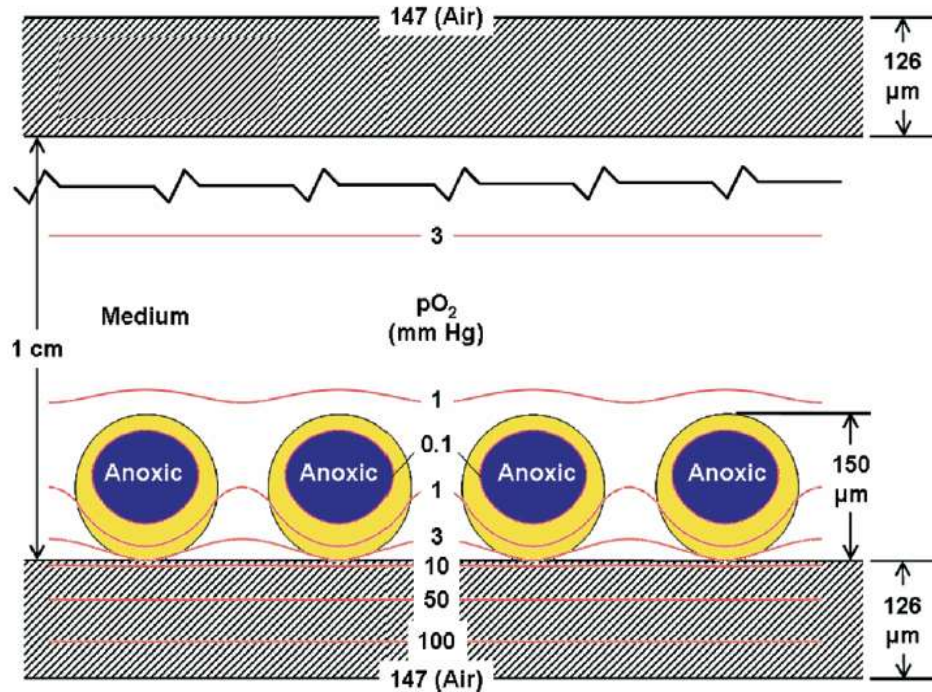
Biofunctionality (1)



Biofunctionality (2)

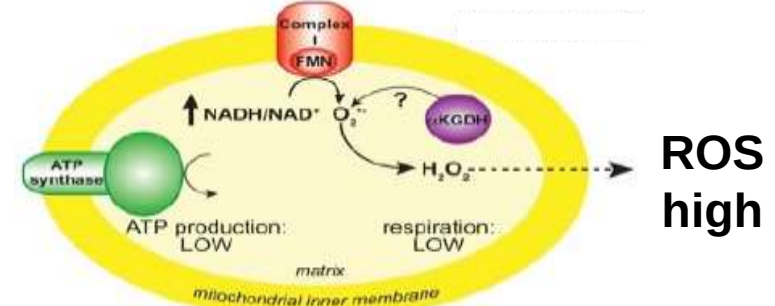


Islet Hypoxia



Hypoxia

Dysfunction
(Murphy, 2009)



Exciting Times!



“The future ain’t what it used
to be!”

Yogi Bera 1998

Conclusions

- Islet transplantation works well in selected patients
- Number of ongoing challenges before it can be applied more widely
- Development of immune tolerance or encapsulation protocols required before implementing treatment in children
- Cell isolation / cell transplant techniques applicable for potentially treating many other surgical conditions in children eg liver, myocytes, engineering etc

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Rebecca Spiers

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NIHR

MRC

NCG

wellcome^{trust}

