



Hypothermic Machine Perfusion of Liver Grafts prior to Transplantation

**Xavier Muller, Guillaume Rossignol,
Antoine Breton, Joris Couillerot**

Department of Surgery and Transplantation,
Croix Rousse University Hospital

Organ Nursery

ARE THE ORGANS READY YET?

THE LIVER'S READY, BUT THE KIDNEYS
NEED TO BE PIMPED UP A BIT.

T. McBrayer
© Artificial Organs

1



1



2



Transplantation



1



2

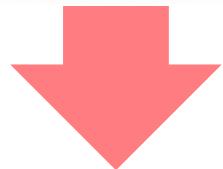
Transplantation



1

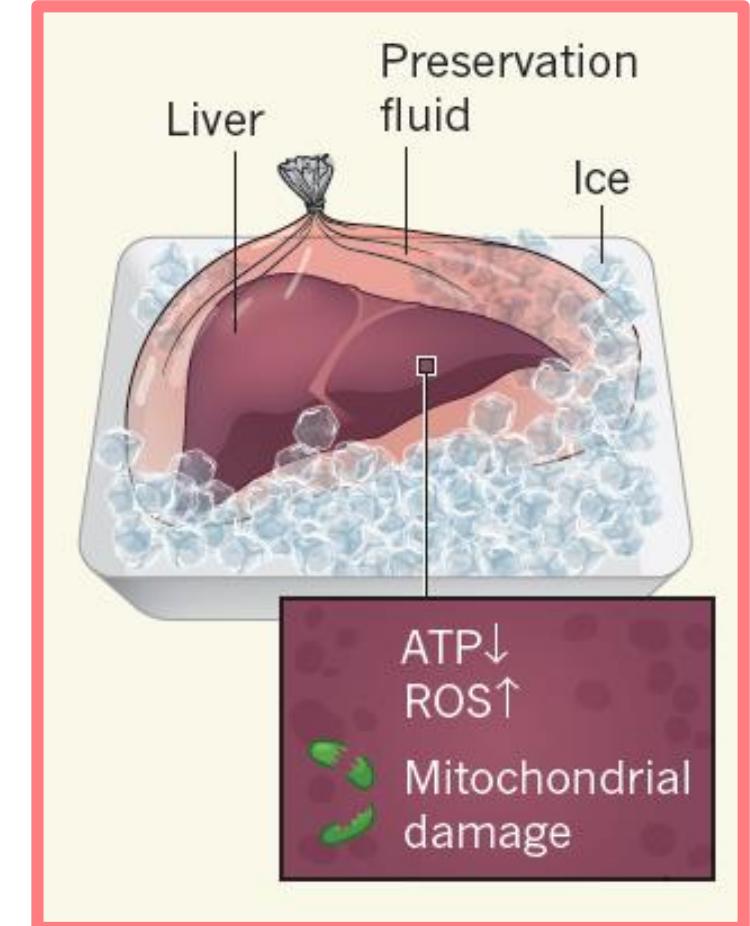


NO
OXYGEN



2

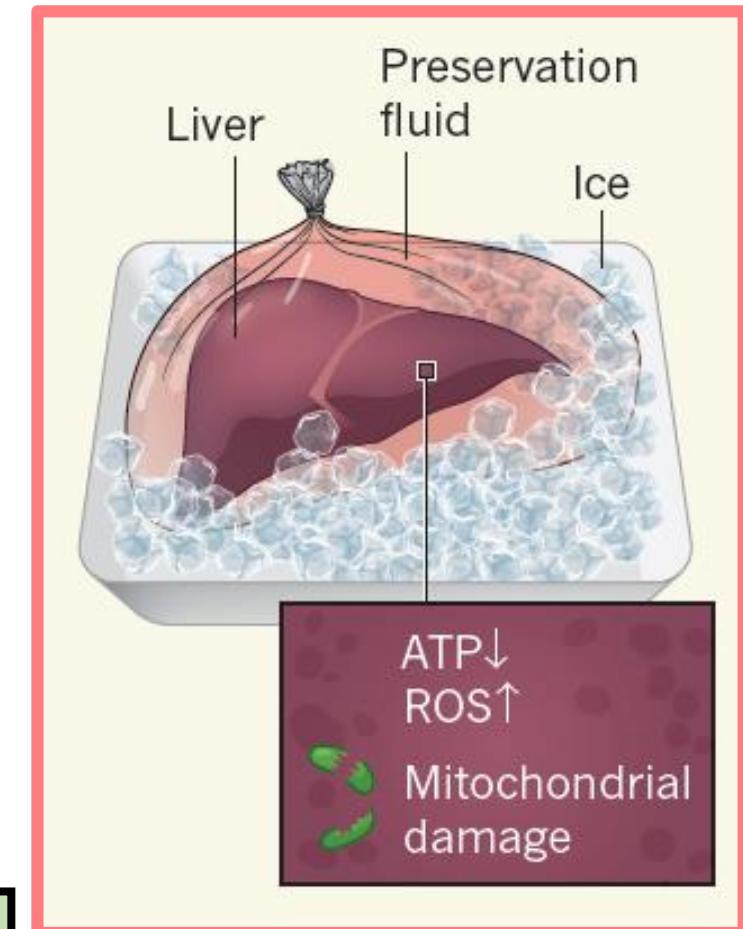
Transplantation



1. Ischemia



Transplantation

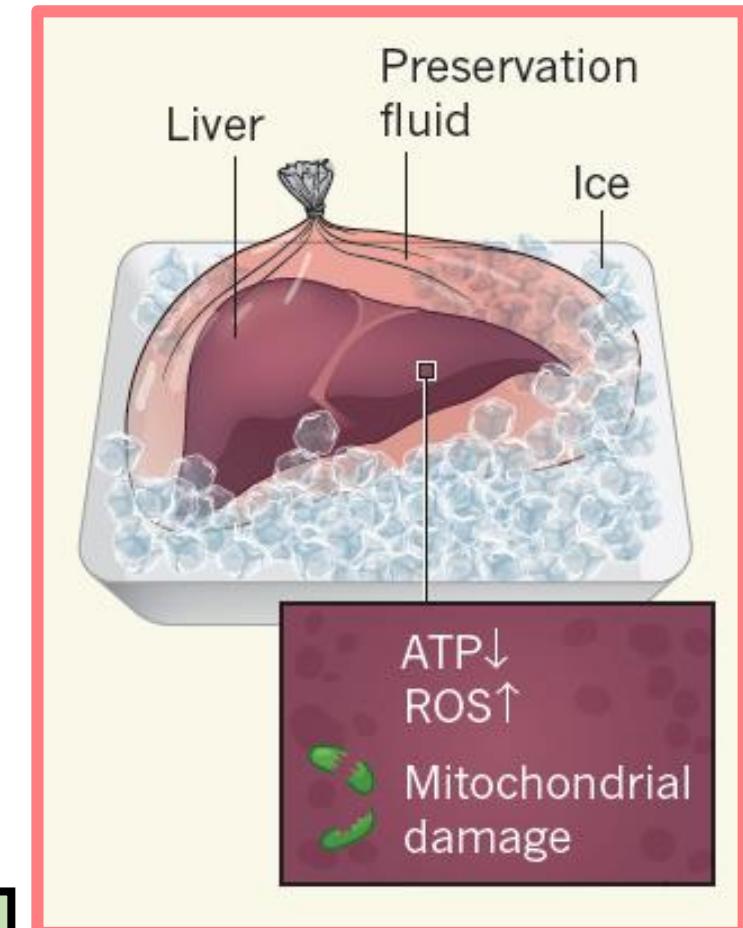


1. Ischemia

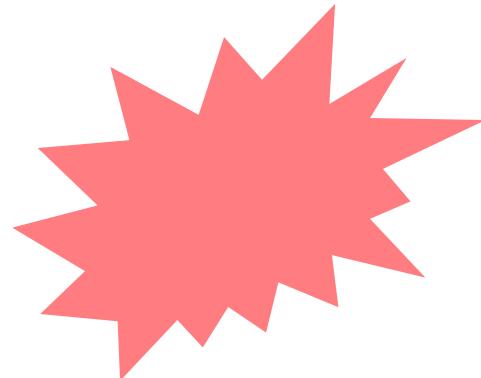


2. Reperfusion

Transplantation



1. Ischemia



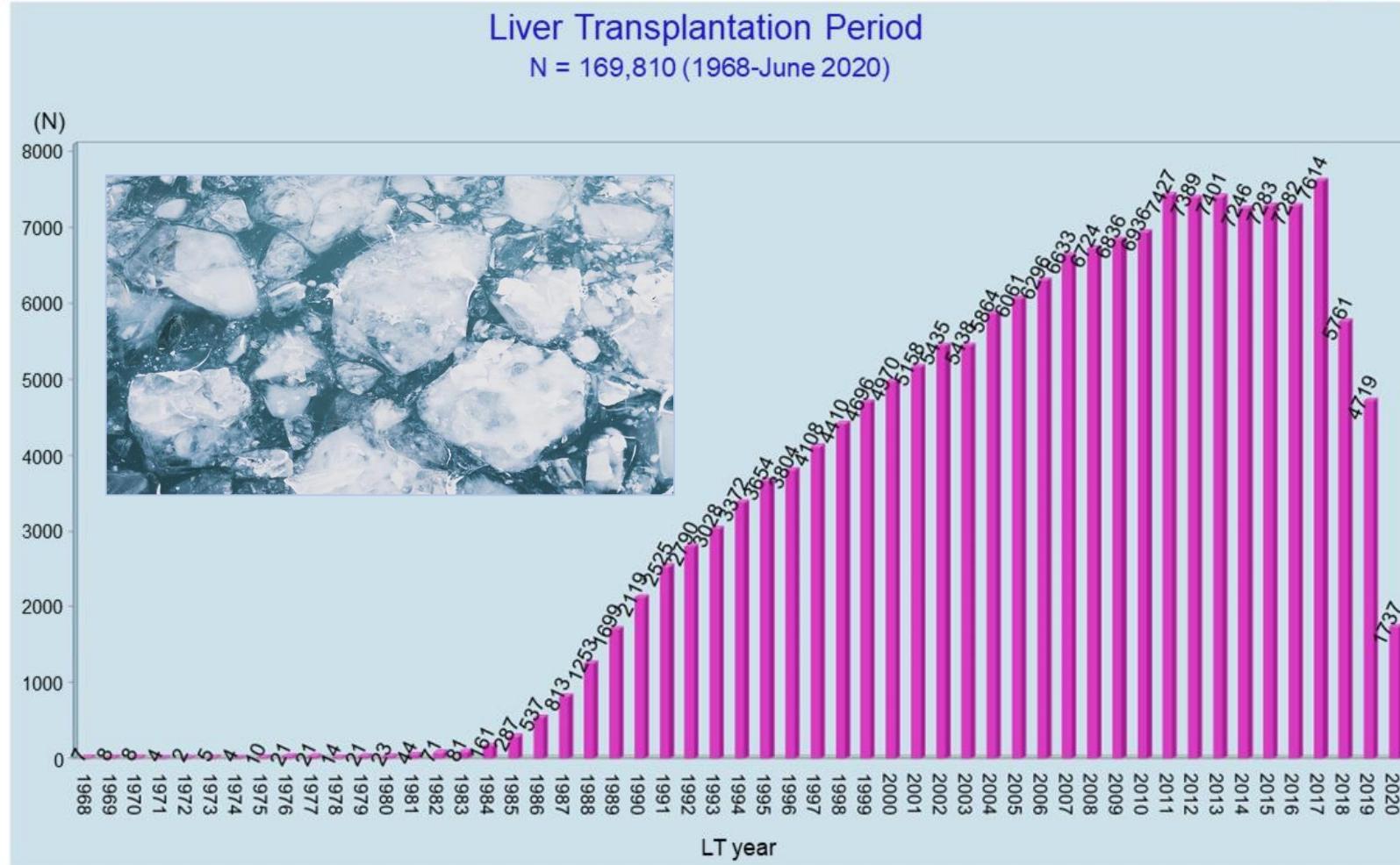
Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury

2. Reperfusion

Transplantation

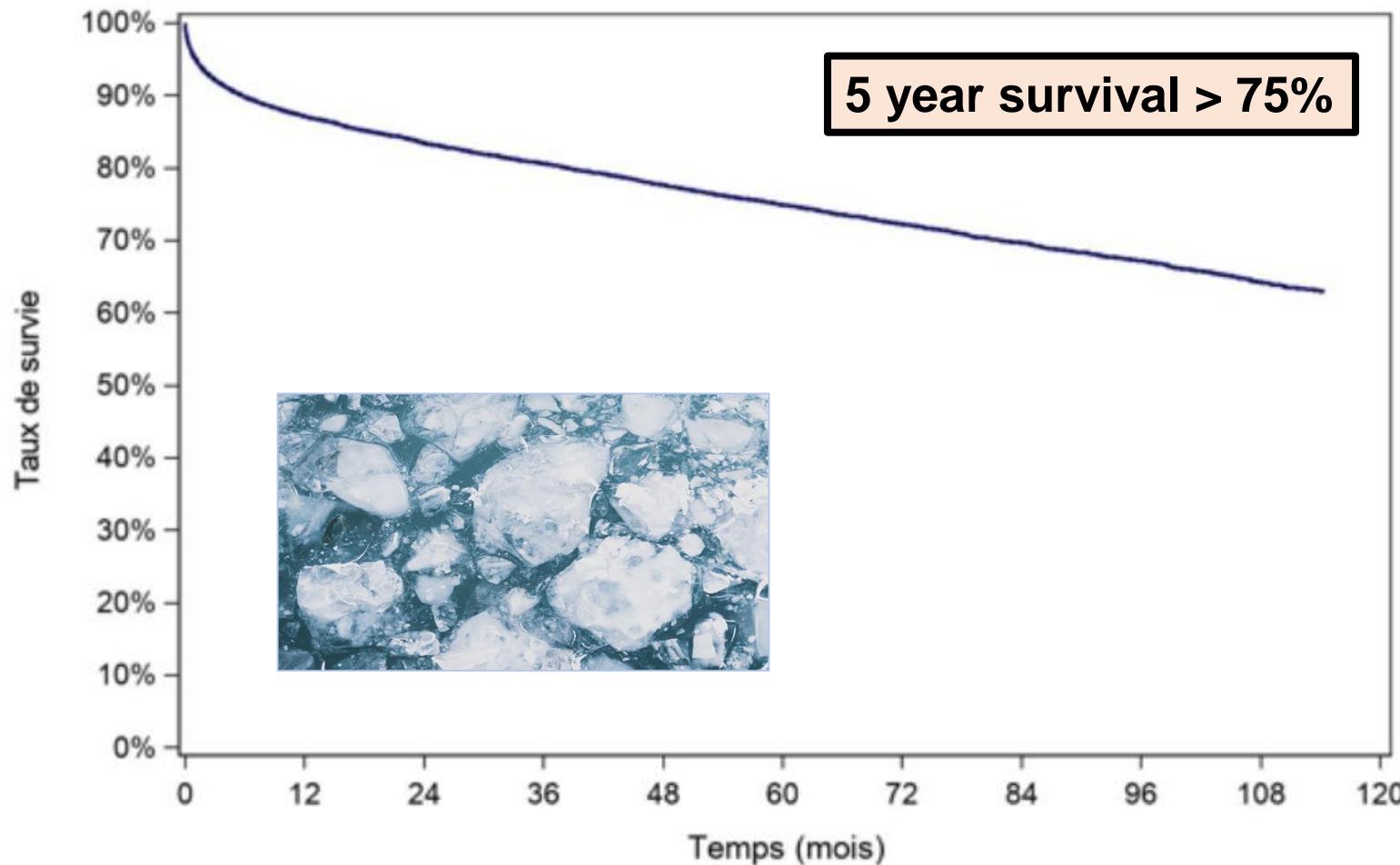
Does Static Cold Storage Work?

Does Static Cold Storage Work?



Does Static Cold Storage Work?

Figure F5. Survie globale du receveur après greffe hépatique (2007-2019)



Do we need Dynamic Graft Preservation?



Should we use liver grafts repeatedly refused by other transplant teams?

2020

Authors

Audrey Winter, Paul Landais, Daniel Azoulay, Mara Disabato, Philippe Compagnon, Corinne Antoine, Christian Jacquelinet, Jean-Pierre Daurès, Cyrille Féray

Greffons hors-tours

Should we use liver grafts repeatedly refused by other transplant teams?

2020

Authors

Audrey Winter, Paul Landais, Daniel Azoulay, Mara Disabato, Philippe Compagnon, Corinne Antoine, Christian Jacquelinet, Jean-Pierre Daurès, Cyrille Féray

- 2009-2014 : n=336
- Older donors
- Longer Static Cold Storage

Greffons hors-tours

Should we use liver grafts repeatedly refused by other transplant teams?

2020

Greffons hors-tours

Authors

Audrey Winter, Paul Landais, Daniel Azoulay, Mara Disabato, Philippe Compagnon, Corinne Antoine, Christian Jacquelinet, Jean-Pierre Daurès, Cyrille Féray

- 2009-2014 : n=336
- Older donors
- Longer Static Cold Storage

→ Higher Risk of graft loss/ death : hazard ratio 1.13

Should we use liver grafts repeatedly refused by other transplant teams?

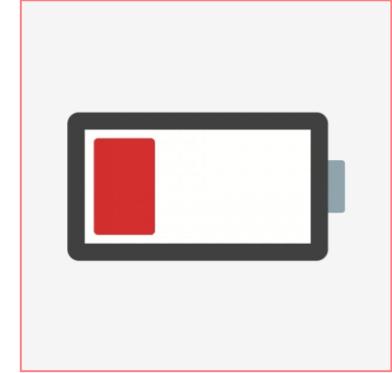
2020

Authors

Audrey Winter, Paul Landais, Daniel Azoulay, Mara Disabato, Philippe Compagnon, Corinne Antoine, Christian Jacquelinet, Jean-Pierre Daurès, Cyrille Féray

- 2009-2014 : n=336
- Older donors
- Longer Static Cold Storage

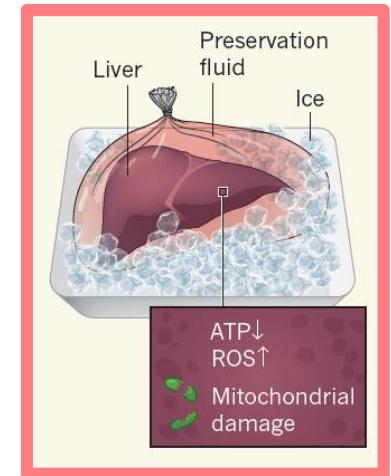
Marginal Grafts



→ Higher Risk of graft loss/ death : hazard ratio 1.13

Donation after circulatory death (Maastricht III)

- French cDCD program started in 2015

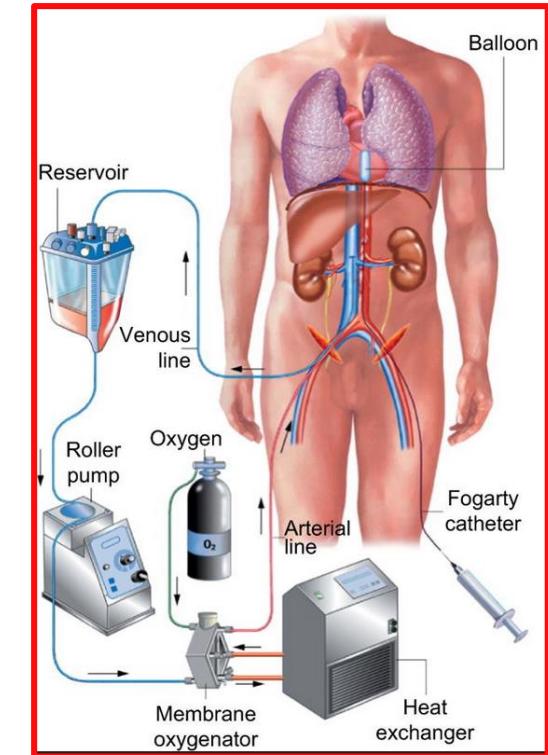


+

**Donor
Warm
Ischemia**

Donation after circulatory death (Maastricht III)

- French cDCD program started in 2015
- **Normothermic regional perfusion**



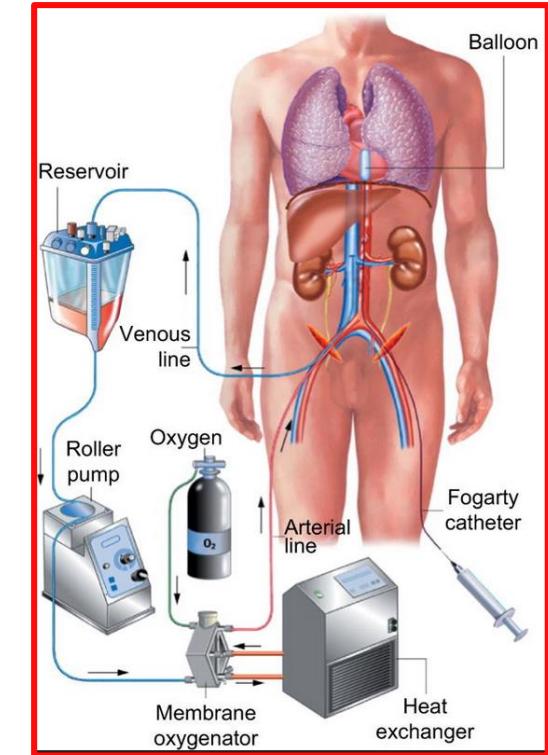
Donation after circulatory death (Maastricht III)

- French cDCD program started in 2015
- **Normothermic regional perfusion**

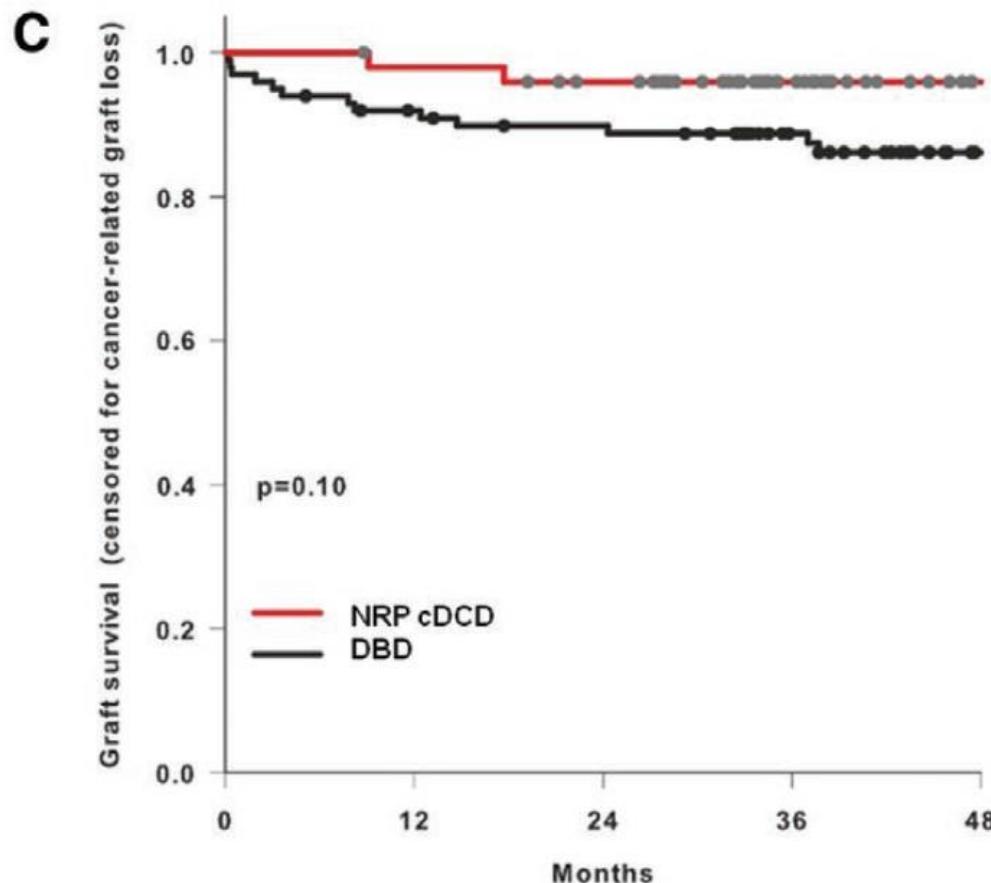
Original Clinical Science—Liver



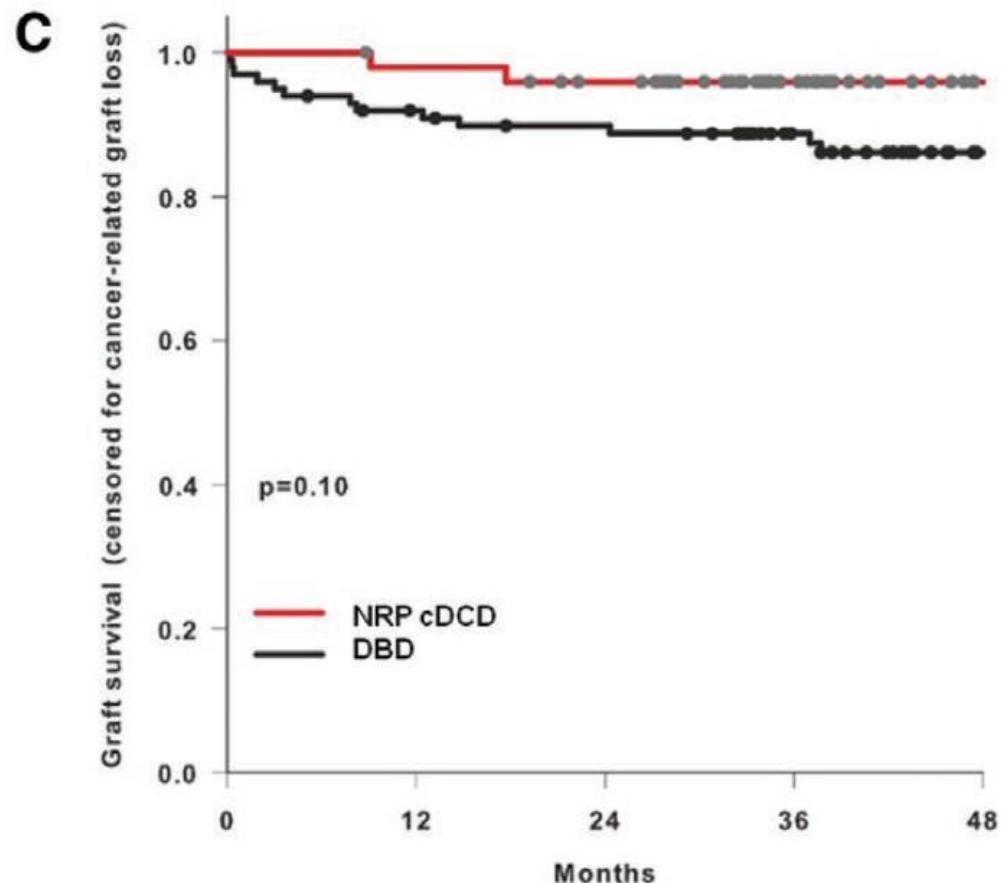
Favorable Outcomes of Liver Transplantation from Controlled Circulatory Death Donors Using Normothermic Regional Perfusion Compared to Brain Death Donors



Favorable Outcomes of Liver Transplantation from Controlled Circulatory Death Donors Using Normothermic Regional Perfusion Compared to Brain Death Donors



Favorable Outcomes of Liver Transplantation from Controlled Circulatory Death Donors Using Normothermic Regional Perfusion Compared to Brain Death Donors



Comparable outcomes
to standard DBD

MAIS!

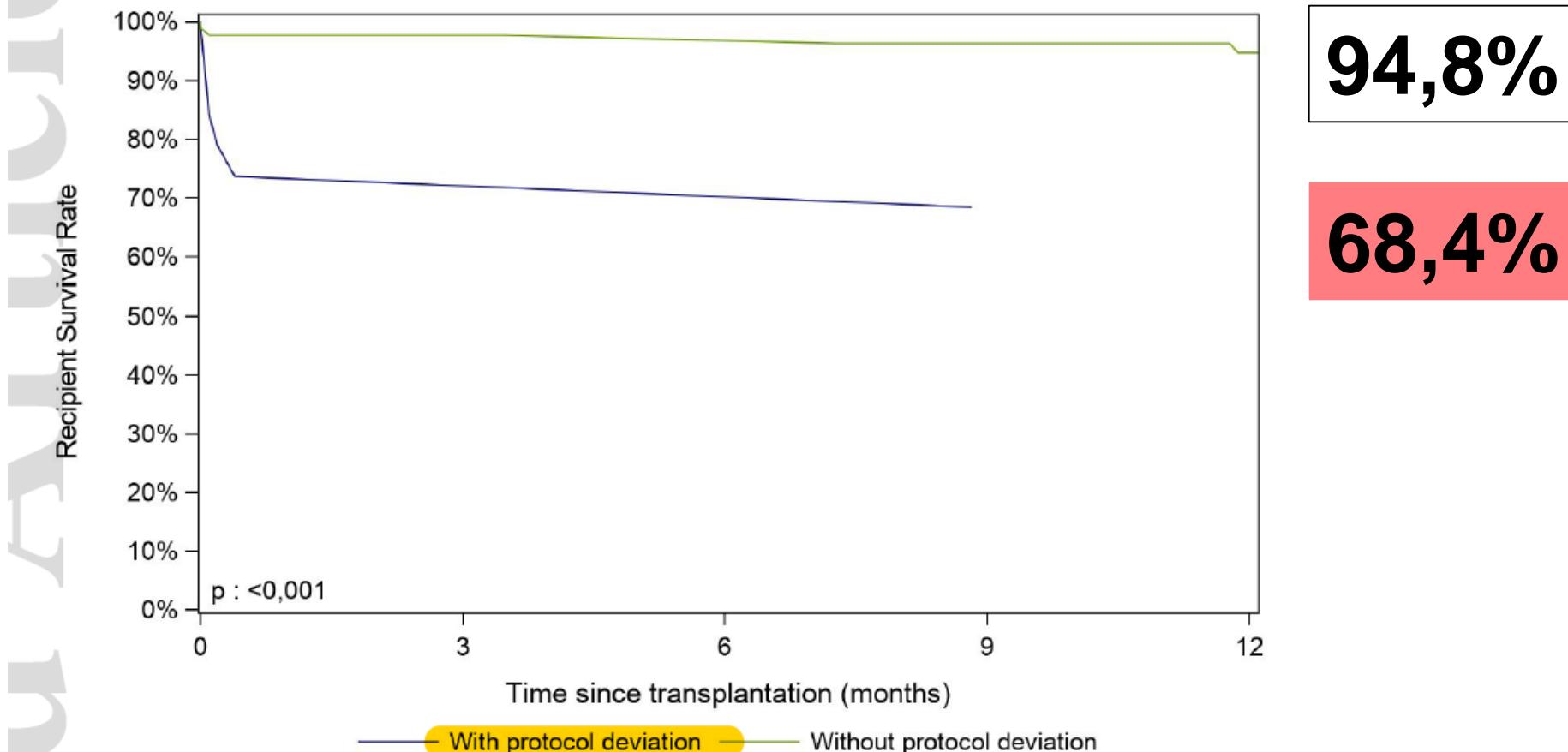
Deviation from the protocol occurred in 21 cases: Age > 66 y (n=1); NRP < 1 hour (n=1); functional warm ischemic time > 30 min. (n=9); cold ischemic time > 8 hours (n=5); MELD > 25 (n=3); abnormal AST/ALT kinetic during NRP (n=1) wrong recipient selection (ABO incompatible) (n=1).

MAIS!

Deviation from the protocol occurred in 21 cases: Age > 66 y (n=1); NRP < 1 hour (n=1); functional warm ischemic time > 30 min. (n=9); cold ischemic time > 8 hours (n=5); MELD > 25 (n=3); abnormal AST/ALT kinetic during NRP (n=1) wrong recipient selection (ABO incompatible) (n=1).

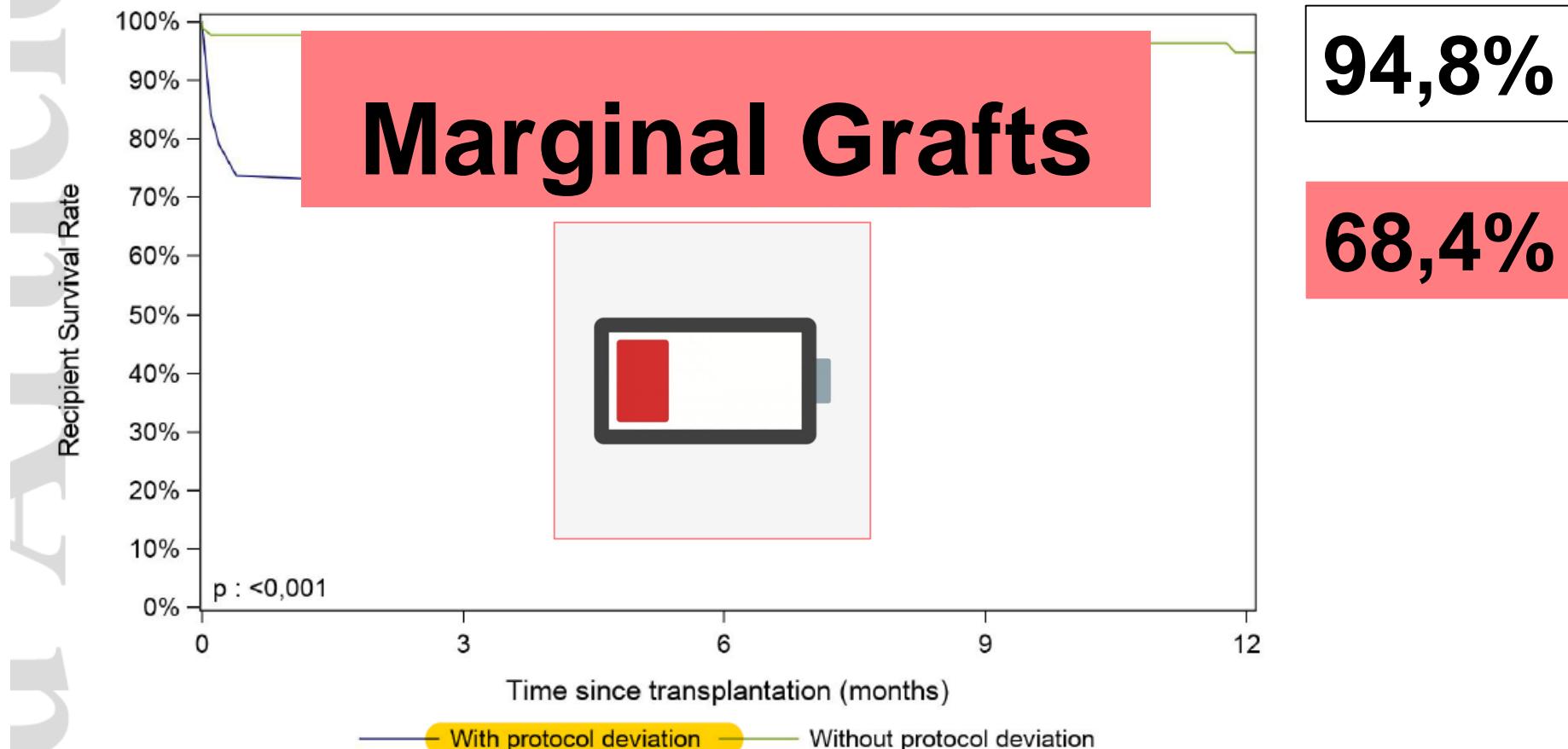
MAIS!

Figure 2. One-year graft survival according to deviation from the national protocol



MAIS!

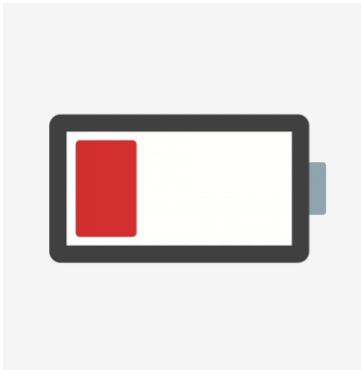
Figure 2. One-year graft survival according to deviation from the national protocol



Do we need Dynamic Preservation?

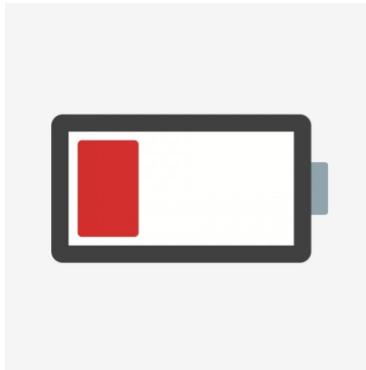
Do we need Dynamic Preservation?

Marginal Liver
Grafts



Do we need Dynamic Preservation?

Marginal Liver
Grafts



DYNAMIC PRESERVATION

Safe



Protect

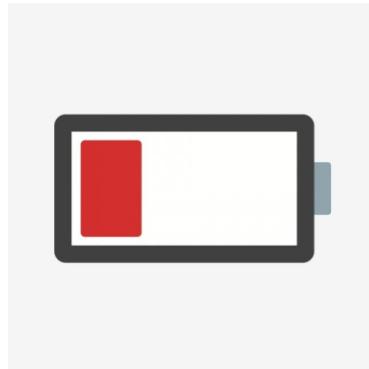


Assess
Viability



Do we need Dynamic Preservation?

Marginal Liver
Grafts



DYNAMIC PRESERVATION

Safe



Protect



Assess
Viability



CLINICAL OUTCOMES

Optimize Outcomes

Increase Utilization
Rates

Improve Donor-
recipient
matching

MARS 2024



Photo illustration

Denver 1967



Denver 1967

HOMOTRANSPLANTATION OF THE LIVER IN HUMANS

T. E. STARZL, M.D., F.A.C.S., T. L. MARCHIORO, M.D., K. N. VON KAULLA, M.D., G.
HERMANN, M.D., R. S. BRITTAINE, M.D., and W. R. WADDELL, M.D., F.A.C.S.

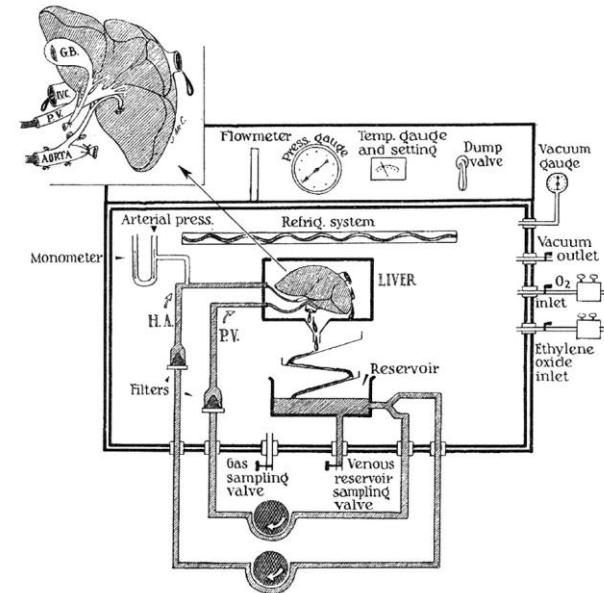
Denver, Colorado

Although the technique of hypothermic perfusion has made liver transplantation feasible, the method has definite limitations in extending the postmortem viability of hepatic tissue.

Denver 1967

SUCCESSFUL ORTHOTOPIC TRANSPLANTATION OF LIVER HOMOGRAFTS AFTER EIGHT TO TWENTY-FIVE HOURS PRESERVATION

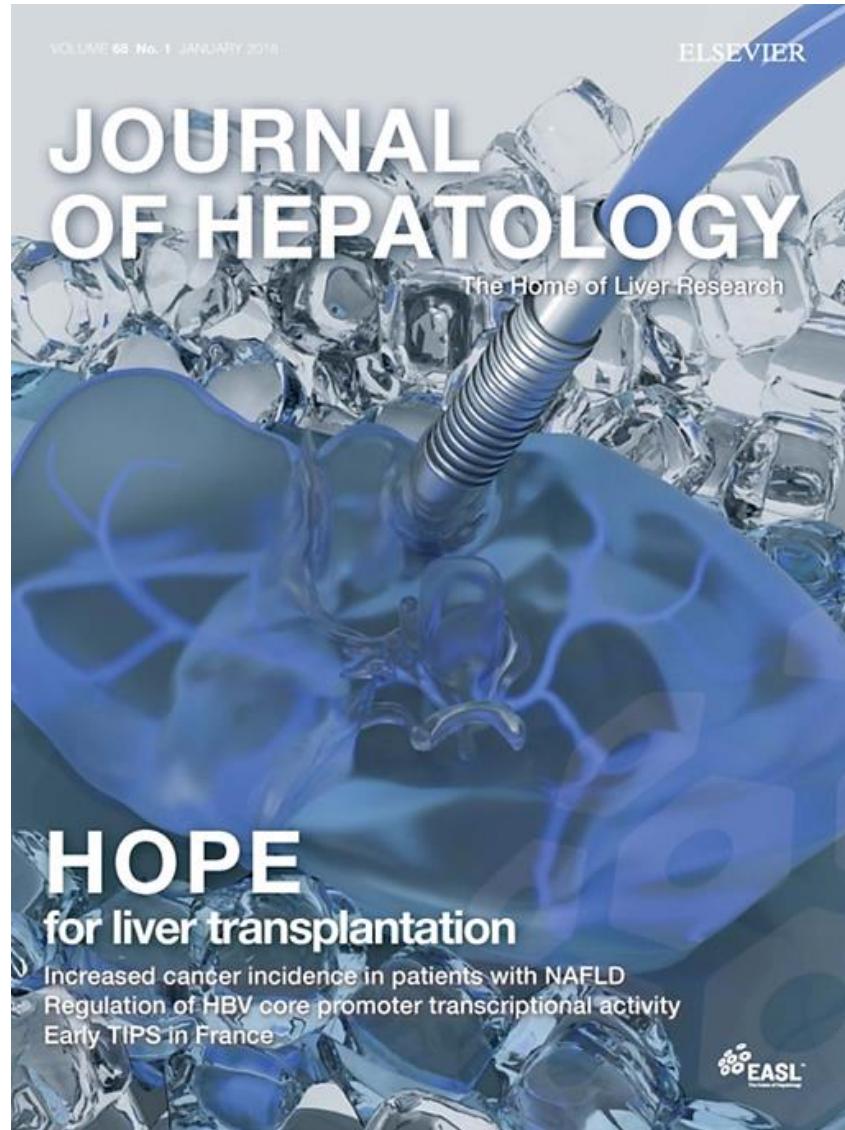
Lawrence Brettschneider, M.D., P. M. Daloze, M.D., C. Huguet, M.D., C. G. Groth, M.D., N. Kashiwagi, M.D., David E. Hutchison, M.D., and Thomas E. Starzl, M.D., F.A.C.S.
University of Colorado Medical School and Veterans Administration Hospital, Denver



CONCLUSIONS

The combined use of hypothermia, hyperbaric oxygenation, and perfusion with diluted blood at the rate of 6 ml./gm. tissue/hr. permitted successful storage of hepatic homografts for 8 hr. and with less consistency for more than a day (Group III). When used as orthotopic transplants these livers supported life both immediately and chronically. The deterioration of results with reduction (Group II) or elimination (Group VI) of perfusion, omission of blood from the perfusate (Group V), or elimination of high pressure oxygen (Group IV) suggests that each of these preservation components may have played a significant beneficial role.

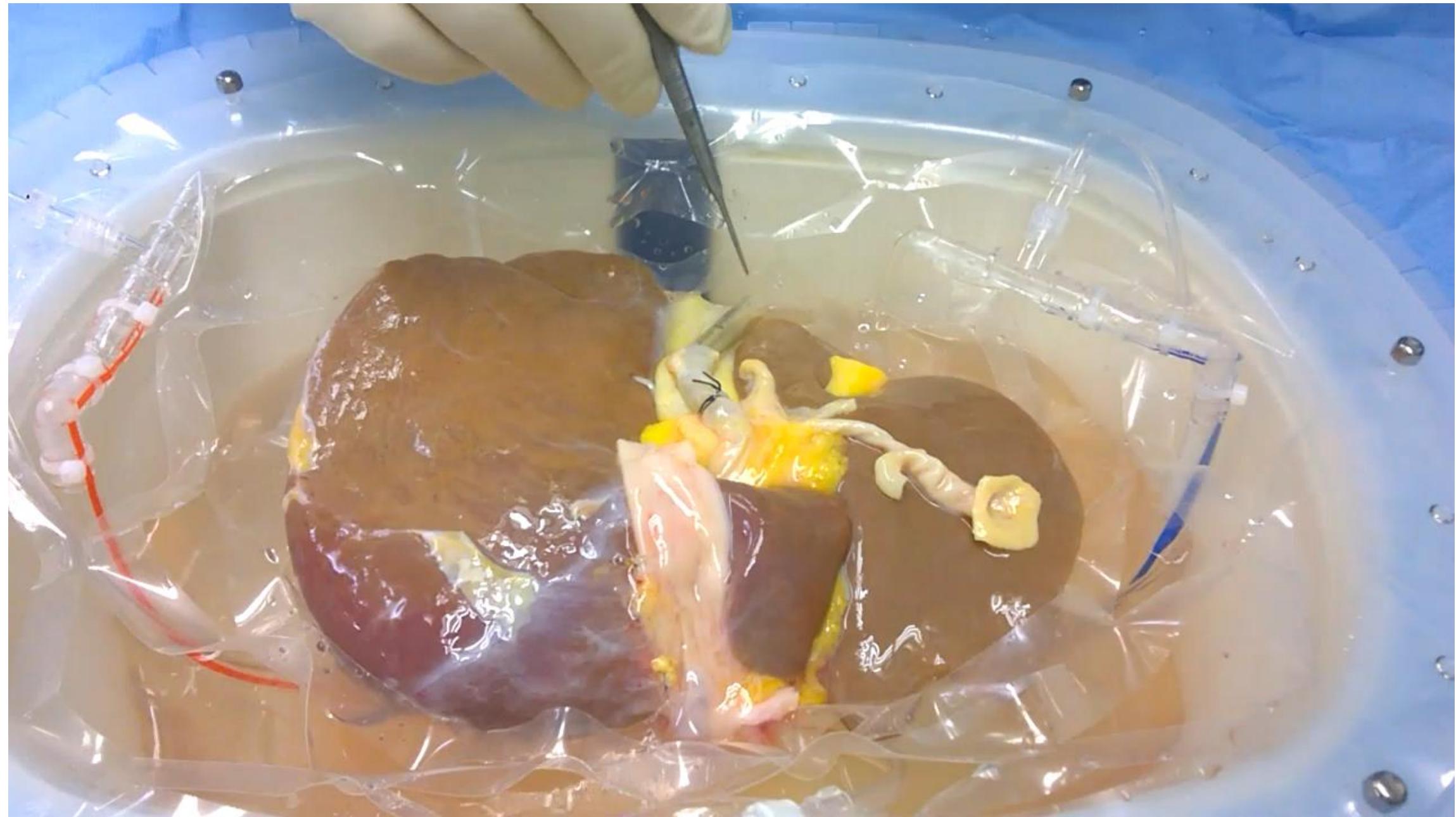
And in 2021?



Hypothermic **Oxygenated** Perfusion (HOPE)

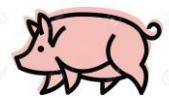
- COLD: 8-12 °C
- Hyper OXYGENATED
- End-ischemic
- **Short 2-4h (during hepatectomy)**

Muller, Schlegel, Clavien, Dutkowski et al, JHE 2018



What is the evidence?

From Bench to Bedside



2009

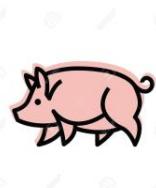
ORIGINAL ARTICLES

One Hour Hypothermic Oxygenated Perfusion (HOPE) Protects Nonviable Liver Allografts Donated After Cardiac Death

Olivier de Rougemont, MD,* Stefan Breitenstein, MD,* Boris Leskosek,* Achim Weber, MD,† Rolf Graf, PhD,*
Pierre-Alain Clavien, MD, PhD,* and Philipp Dutkowski, MD*

*De Rougement et al, Annals 2009
Kron, Schlegel et al, JHEP 2018
Schlegel, Muller et al, EbioMed 2021*

From Bench to Bedside



2009

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

One Hour Hypothermic Oxygenated Perfusion (HOPE) Protects Nonviable Liver Allografts Donated After Cardiac Death

Olivier de Rougemont, MD,* Stefan Breitenstein, MD,* Boris Leskosek,* Achim Weber, MD,† Rolf Graf, PhD,*
Pierre-Alain Clavien, MD, PhD,* and Philipp Dutkowski, MD*

Research Article
Transplantation

JOURNAL
OF HEPATOLOGY

2018

Hypothermic oxygenated perfusion (HOPE) for fatty liver grafts in rats and humans

De Rougement et al, Annals 2009
Kron, Schlegel et al, JHEP 2018
Schlegel, Muller et al, EbioMed 2021

From Bench to Bedside



2009

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

One Hour Hypothermic Oxygenated Perfusion (HOPE) Protects Nonviable Liver Allografts Donated After Cardiac Death

Olivier de Rougemont, MD,* Stefan Breitenstein, MD,* Boris Leskosek,* Achim Weber, MD,† Rolf Graf, PhD,*
Pierre-Alain Clavien, MD, PhD,* and Philipp Dutkowski, MD*

Research Article
Transplantation

JOURNAL
OF HEPATOLOGY

2018

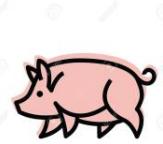
Hypothermic oxygenated perfusion (HOPE) for fatty liver grafts in rats and humans

Research paper 2021

Hypothermic oxygenated perfusion protects from mitochondrial injury before liver transplantation

De Rougement et al, Annals 2009
Kron, Schlegel et al, JHEP 2018
Schlegel, Muller et al, EbioMed 2021

From Bench to Bedside



2009

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

One Hour Hypothermic Oxygenated Perfusion (HOPE) Protects Nonviable Liver Allografts Donated After Cardiac Death

Olivier de Rougemont, MD,* Stefan Breitenstein, MD,* Boris Leskosek,* Achim Weber, MD,† Rolf Graf, PhD,* Pierre-Alain Clavien, MD, PhD,* and Philipp Dutkowski, MD*

Research Article
Transplantation

2018

JOURNAL
OF HEPATOLOGY

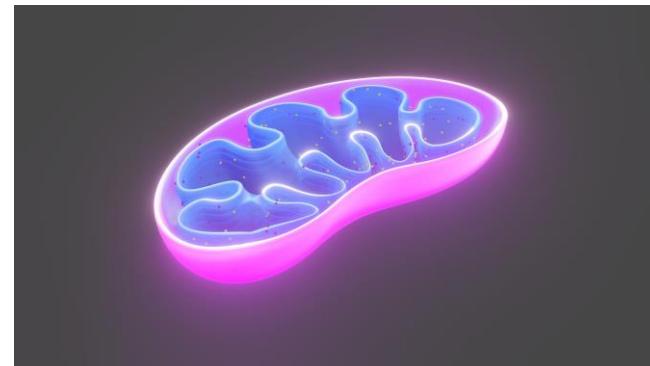
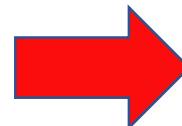
Hypothermic oxygenated perfusion (HOPE) for fatty liver grafts in rats and humans

Research paper 2021

Hypothermic oxygenated perfusion protects from mitochondrial injury before liver transplantation

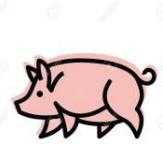
EDITORIAL

Uploading Cellular Batteries: Caring for Mitochondria Is Key



Dutkowski et al, 2018
De Rougement et al, Annals 2009
Kron, Schelgel et al, JHEP 2018
Schlegel, Muller et al, EbioMed 2021

From Bench to Bedside



2009

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

One Hour Hypothermic Oxygenated Perfusion (HOPE) Protects Nonviable Liver Allografts Donated After Cardiac Death

Olivier de Rougemont, MD,* Stefan Breitenstein, MD,* Boris Leskosek,* Achim Weber, MD,† Rolf Graf, PhD,* Pierre-Alain Clavien, MD, PhD,* and Philipp Dutkowski, MD*

Research Article
Transplantation

2018

JOURNAL
OF HEPATOLOGY

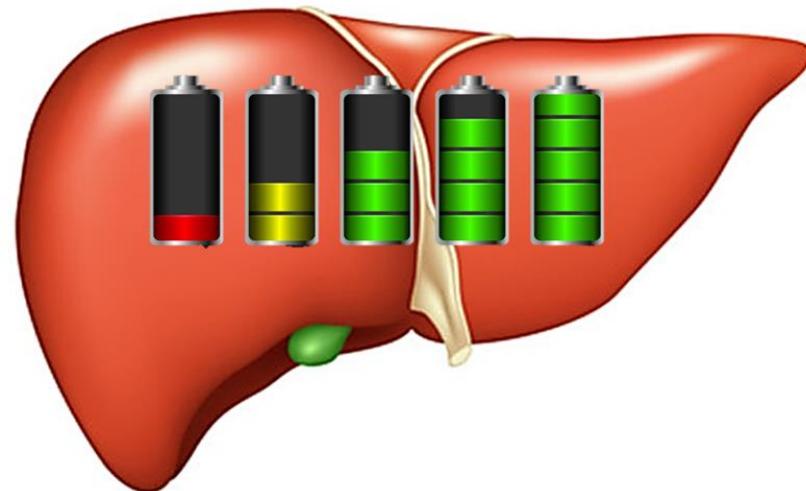
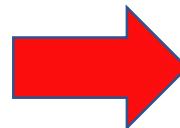
Hypothermic oxygenated perfusion (HOPE) for fatty liver grafts in rats and humans

Research paper 2021

Hypothermic oxygenated perfusion protects from mitochondrial injury before liver transplantation

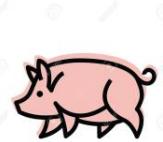
EDITORIAL

Uploading Cellular Batteries: Caring for Mitochondria Is Key



Dutkowski et al, 2018
De Rougement et al, Annals 2009
Kron, Schelgel et al, JHEP 2018
Schlegel, Muller et al, EbioMed 2021

From Bench to Bedside



2009

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

One Hour Hypothermic Oxygenated Perfusion (HOPE) Protects Nonviable Liver Allografts Donated After Cardiac Death

Olivier de Rougemont, MD,* Stefan Breitenstein, MD,* Boris Leskosek,* Achim Weber, MD,† Rolf Graf, PhD,* Pierre-Alain Clavien, MD, PhD,* and Philipp Dutkowski, MD*

Research Article
Transplantation

2018

JOURNAL
OF HEPATOLOGY

Hypothermic oxygenated perfusion (HOPE) for fatty liver grafts in rats and humans

Research paper 2021

Hypothermic oxygenated perfusion protects from mitochondrial injury before liver transplantation

1st RCT

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

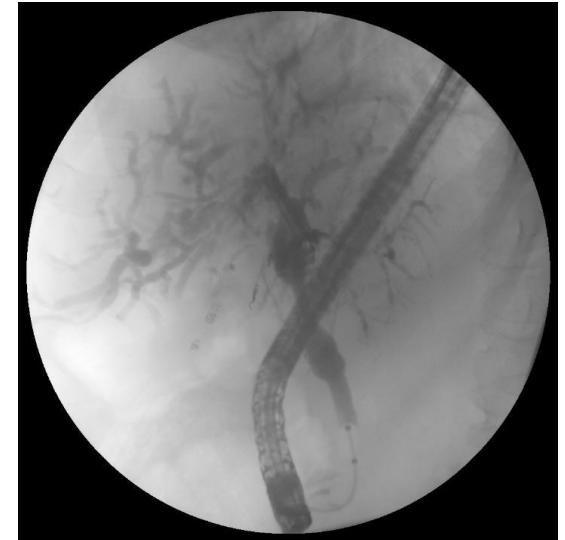
Hypothermic Machine Perfusion in Liver Transplantation — A Randomized Trial

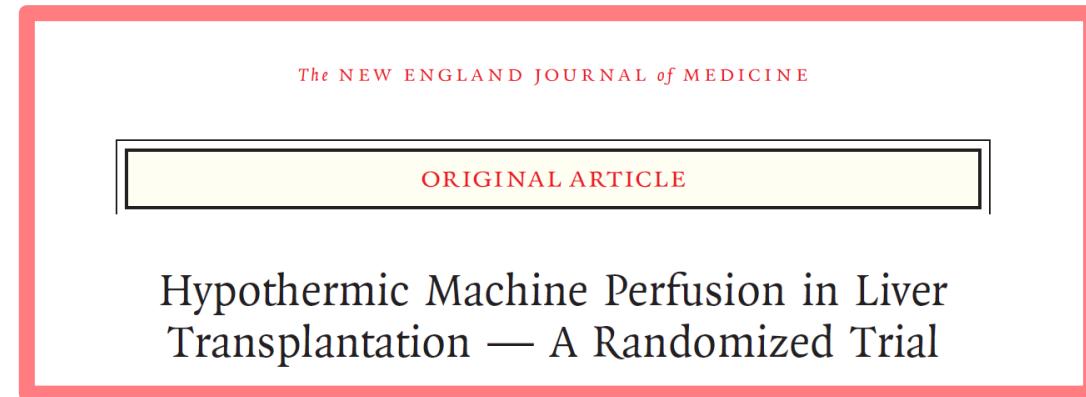
van Rijn et al, NEJM 2021
De Rougement et al, Annals 2009
Kron, Schlegel et al, JHEP 2018
Schlegel, Muller et al, EbioMed 2021

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

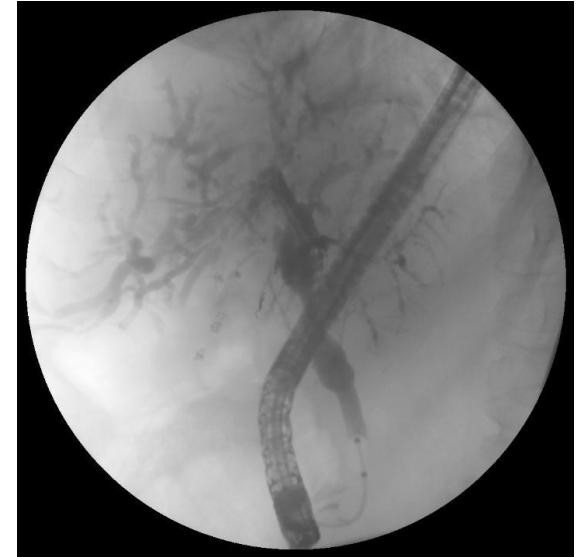
Hypothermic Machine Perfusion in Liver
Transplantation — A Randomized Trial

- Multicenter trial in the Netherlands
- 2016-2019
- cDCD with super rapid procurement (**NO NRP!!!**)
- **End ischemic HOPE (2h) vs Static Cold Storage**

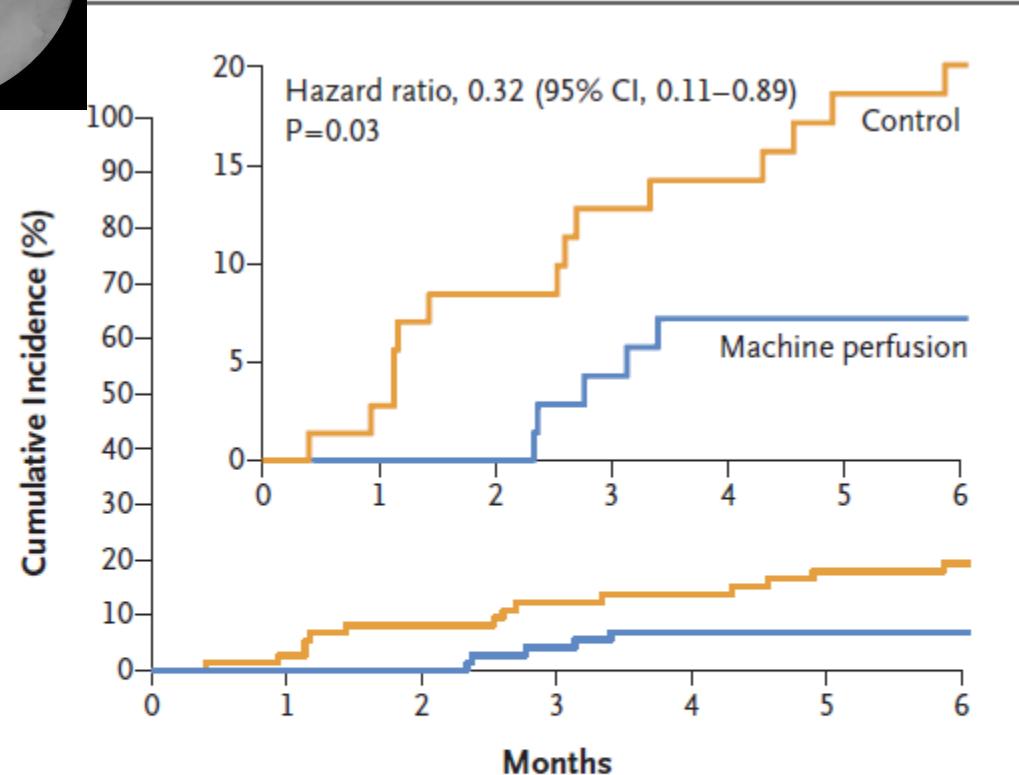




- Multicenter trial in the Netherlands
 - 2016-2019
 - cDCD with super rapid procurement (**NO NRP!!!**)
 - **End ischemic HOPE (2h) vs Static Cold Storage**
 - Primary endpoint :
- **Symptomatic Non-anastomotic bile strictures at 6 months**



Van Rijn et al, NEJM 2021

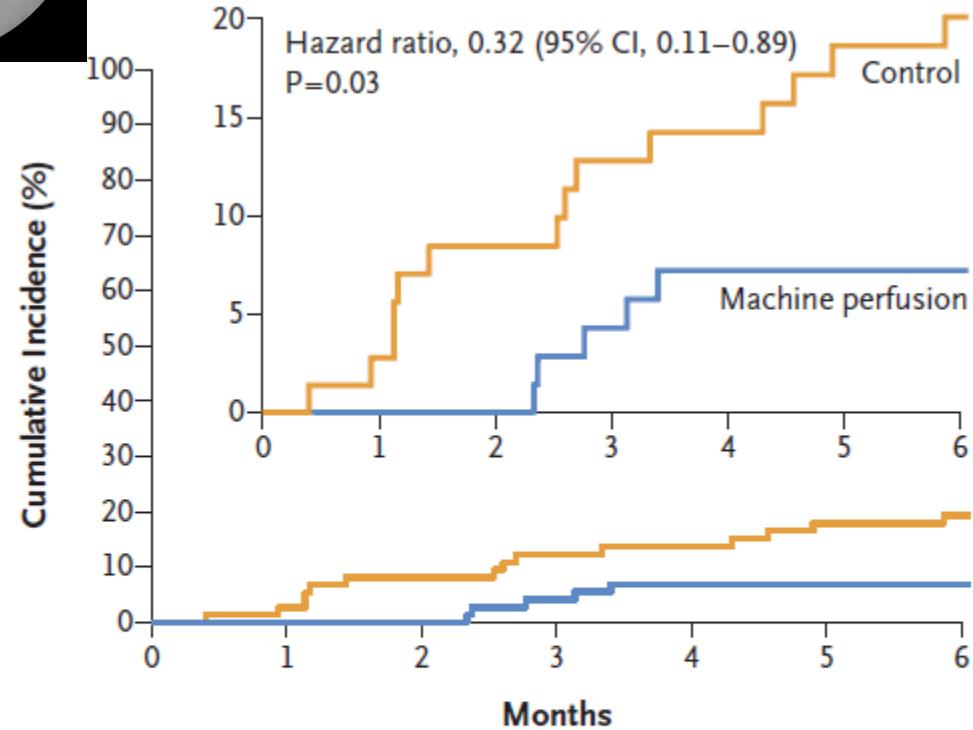


No. at Risk

Control	78	71	66	63	61	58	57
Machine perfusion	78	74	73	68	66	66	66

Figure 1. Cumulative Incidence of Symptomatic Nonanastomotic Biliary Strictures.

**75% lower
RISK of NAS
After HOPE**



No. at Risk
Control 78 71 66 63 61 58 57
Machine perfusion 78 74 73 68 66 66 66

Figure 1. Cumulative Incidence of Symptomatic Nonanastomotic Biliary Strictures.

**75% lower RISK of NAS
After HOPE**

**4x reduction
in cumulative number
of treatments
for biliary complications**

Limitations

1. Asymptomatic NAS 28% in the HOPE arm at 6 month

(Detected on routine MRI)

→ Longer follow-up needed to confirm results

2. Procurement Strategy not applicable in France

→ NRP procurement

And in France?



- Multicenter RCT
- 8 centers in France
- HOPE vs Static Cold Storage
- Extended DBD grafts

And in France?

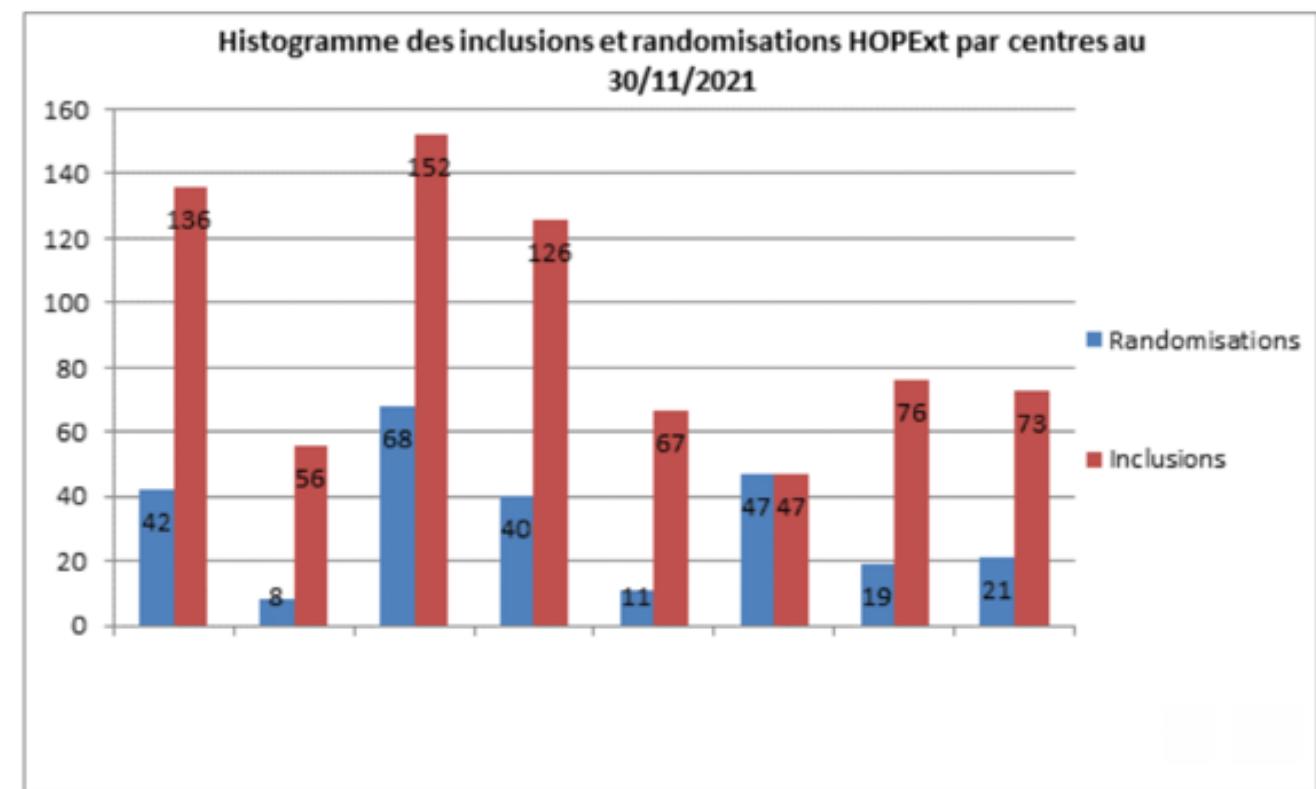
Results next year



NIH ➤ U.S. National Library of Medicine

ClinicalTrials.gov

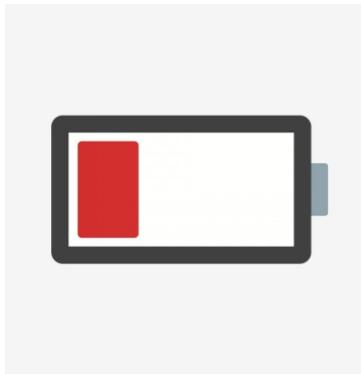
256 patients randomisés au total sur 266 attendus.



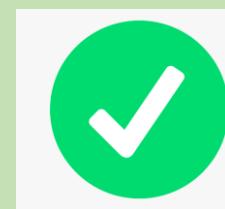
Do we need Dynamic Preservation?

HOPE

Marginal Liver
Grafts



Safe



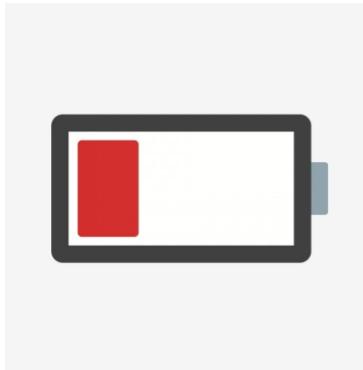
Protect



Do we need Dynamic Preservation?

HOPE

Marginal Liver
Grafts



Safe



Protect

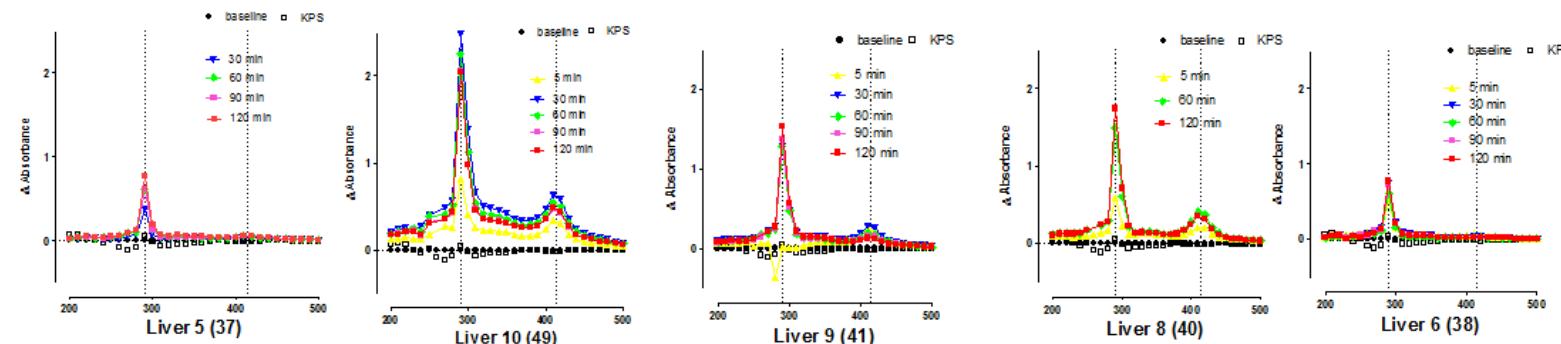
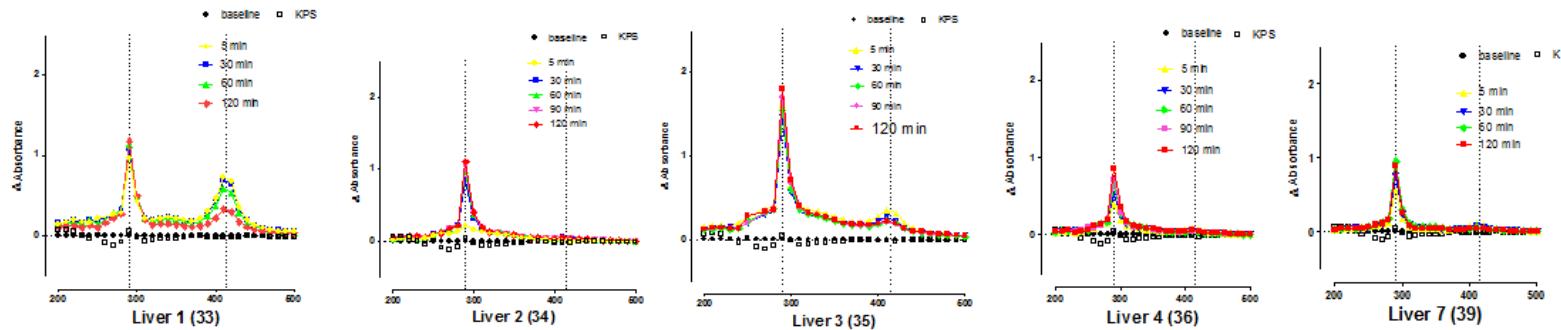


Assess
Viability



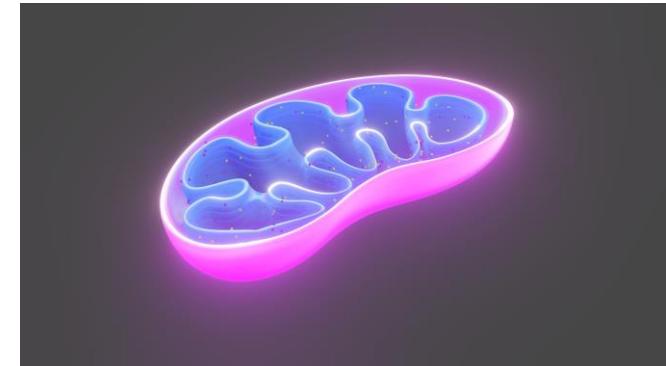
Metabolic Fingerprint of Liver Grafts

> 1000 Proteins



Novel Real-time Prediction of Liver Graft Function During Hypothermic Oxygenated Machine Perfusion Before Liver Transplantation

Xavier Muller, MD,* Andrea Schlegel, MD,* Philipp Kron, MD,* Dilmurodjon Eshmuminov, MD,* Michael Würdinger, MD,* David Meierhofer, PhD,† Pierre-Alain Clavien, MD, PhD,* and Philipp Dutkowski, MD*✉



Novel Real-time Prediction of Liver Graft Function During Hypothermic Oxygenated Machine Perfusion Before Liver Transplantation

Xavier Muller, MD,* Andrea Schlegel, MD,* Philipp Kron, MD,* Dilmurodjon Eshmuminov, MD,* Michael Würdinger, MD,* David Meierhofer, PhD,† Pierre-Alain Clavien, MD, PhD,* and Philipp Dutkowski, MD*✉

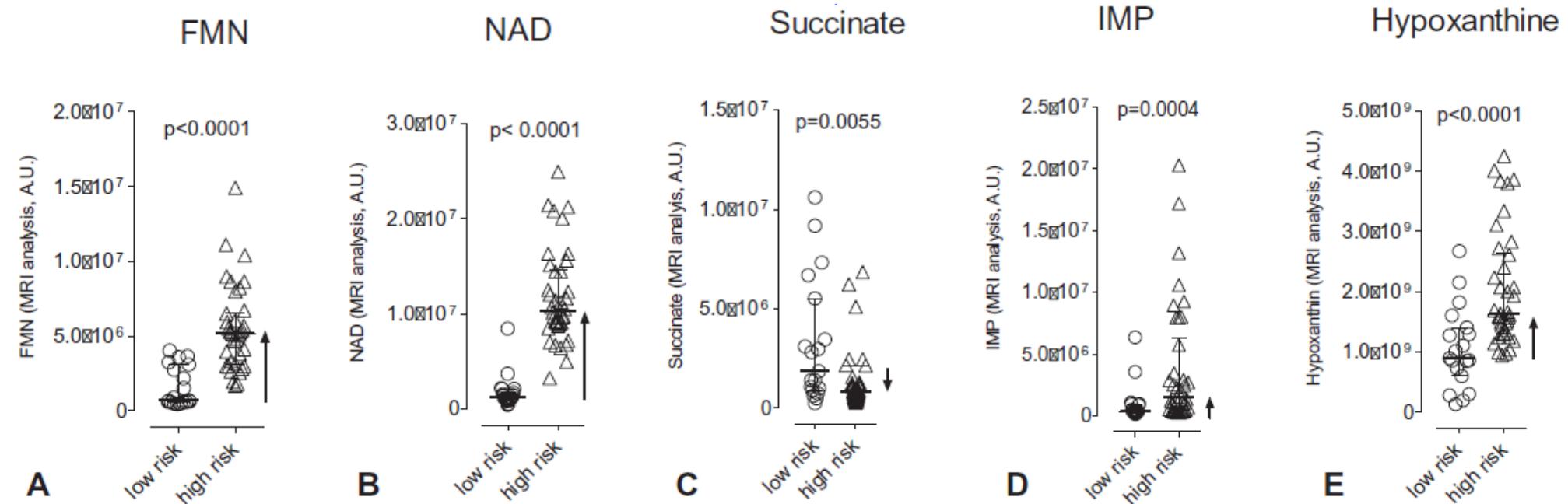
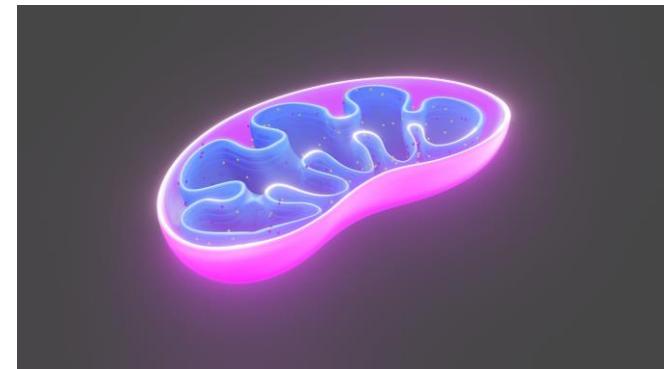


FIGURE 4. Analysis of perfusate FMN, NAD, succinate, IMP, and hypoxanthine in high-risk patients classified by perfusate FMN>10000 AU.

FLAVIN MONONUCLEOTIDE

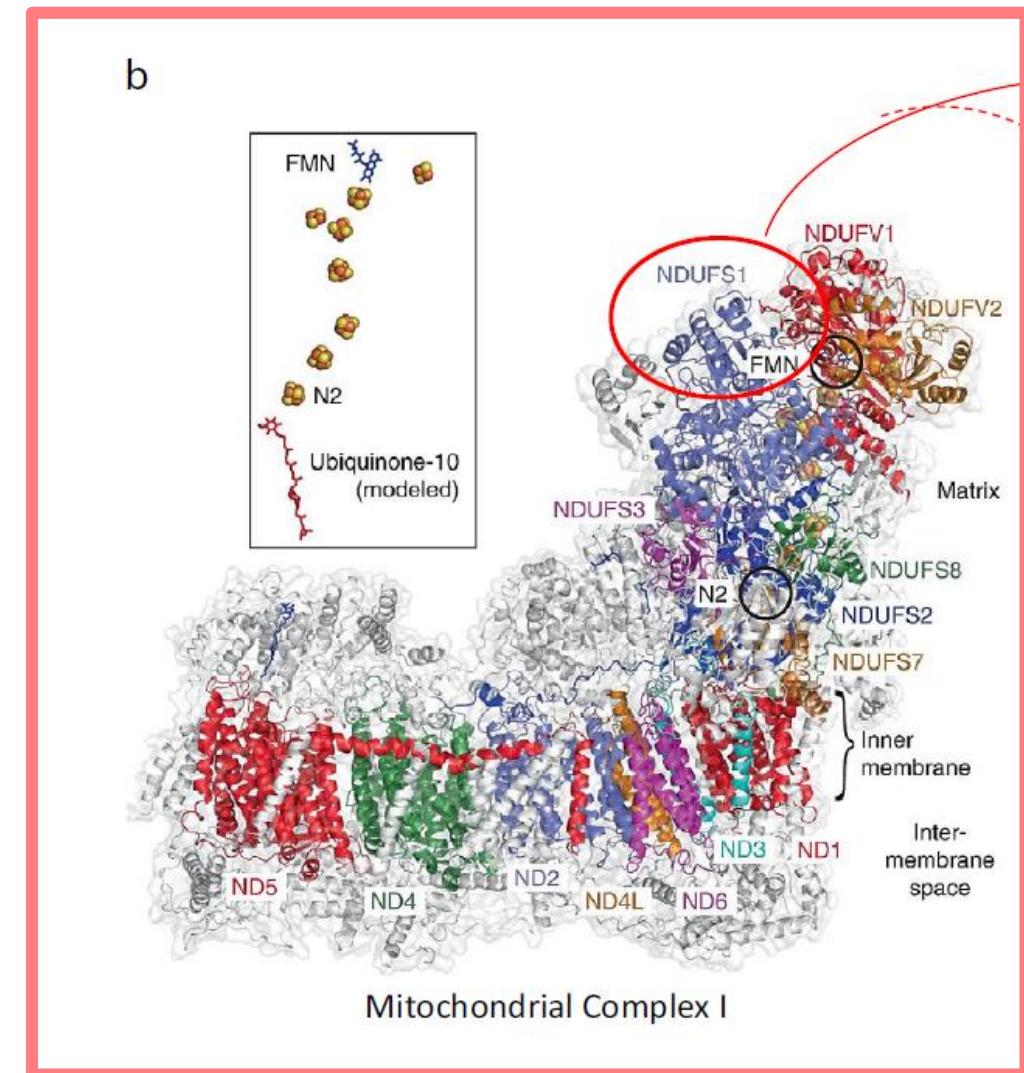
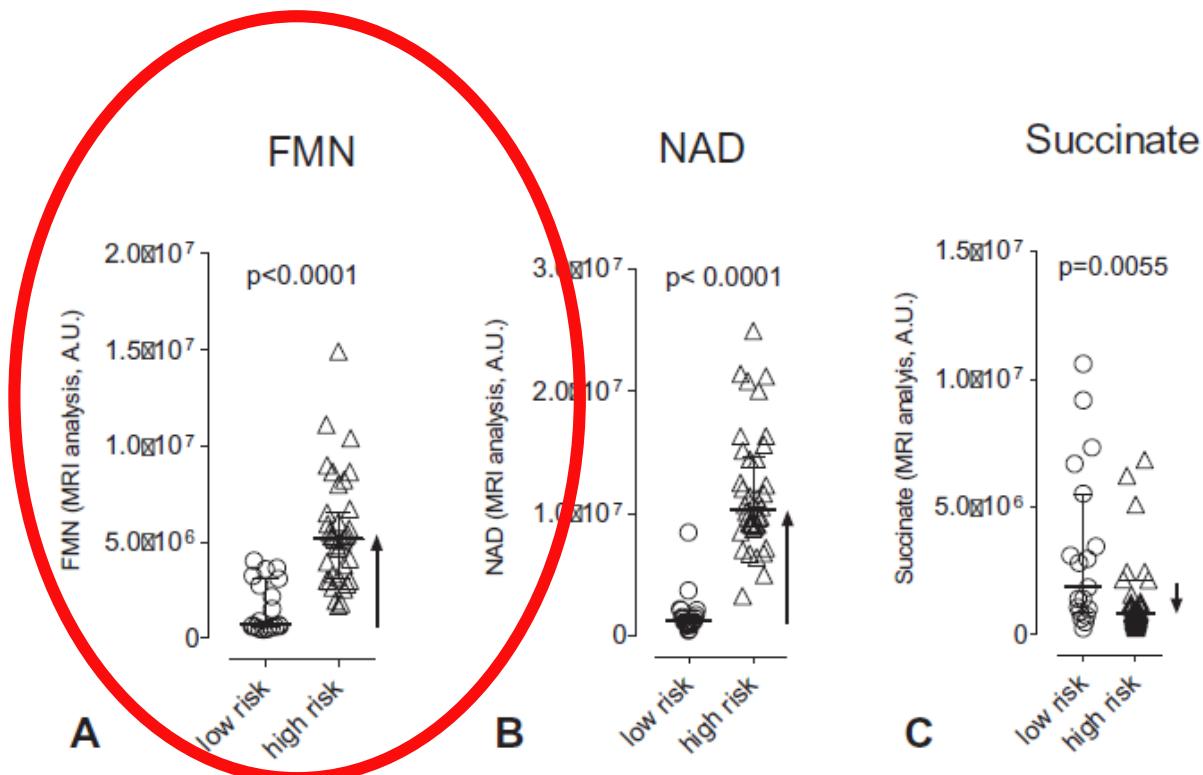
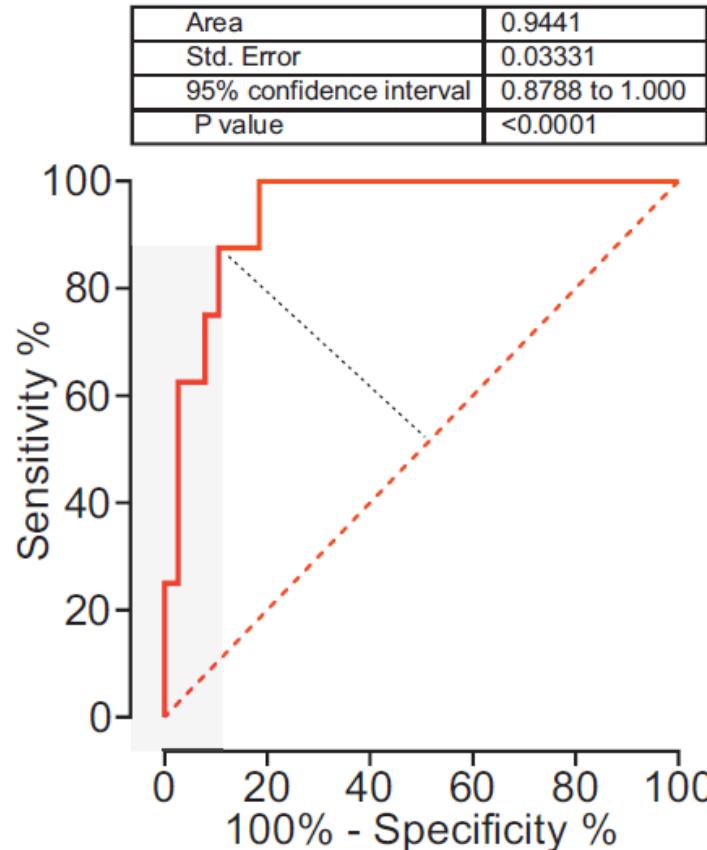


FIGURE 4. Analysis of perfusate FMN, NAD, succinate, IMP, and hypoxanthin in high-risk patients classified by perfusate $\text{FMN} > 10000 \text{ AU}$.

Flavin Mononucleotide (FMN)

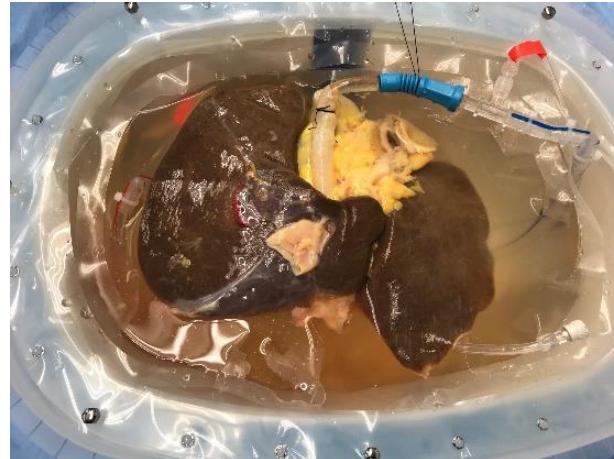
c ROC curve analysis at 30 minutes of HOPE and prediction of graft loss



**Predict Early Graft Loss by real-time
FMN measurement
at 30 min of perfusion**

Muller et al, AoS 2019
Schlegel, Muller et al, EbioMedicine 2021

Viability assessment during HOPE



Organ offer B:

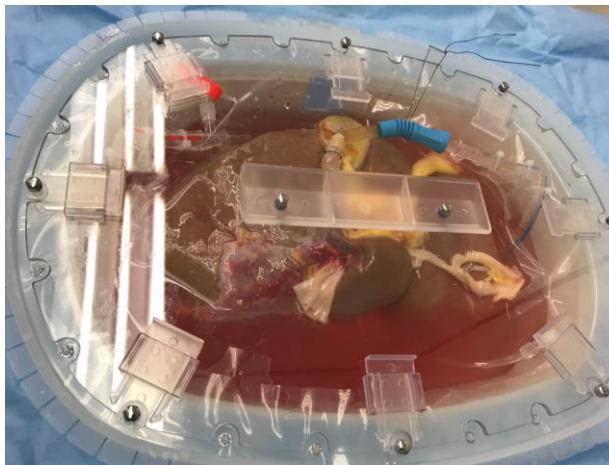
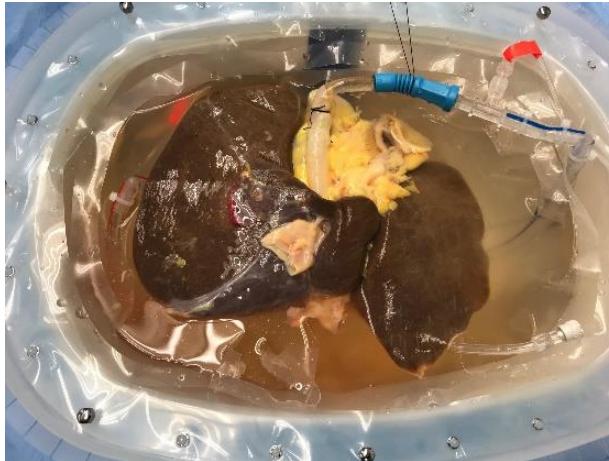
DBD, 55y
No cardiac arrest
Short donor ICU stay, no transaminase increase
no relevant steatosis
donor hepatectomy time 30 min



Organ offer A:

DBD, 83y
Cardiac arrest
>10 days ICU stay, ase
20 % macristeatosis, 5 % microsteatosis
donor hepatectomy time 40 min

Viability assessment during HOPE



Organ offer B:

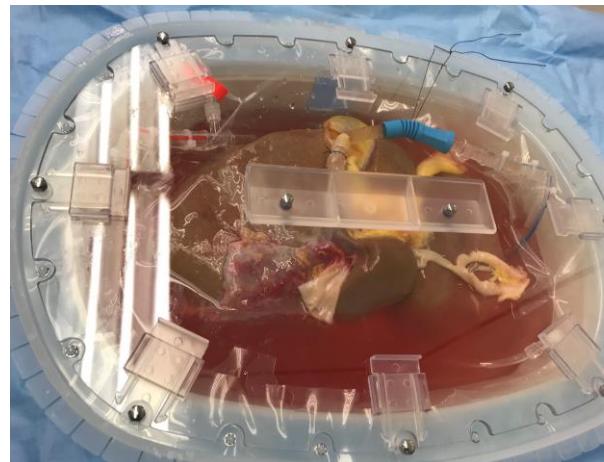
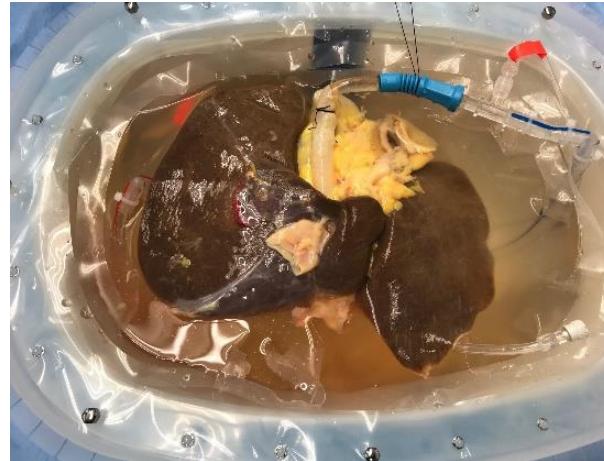
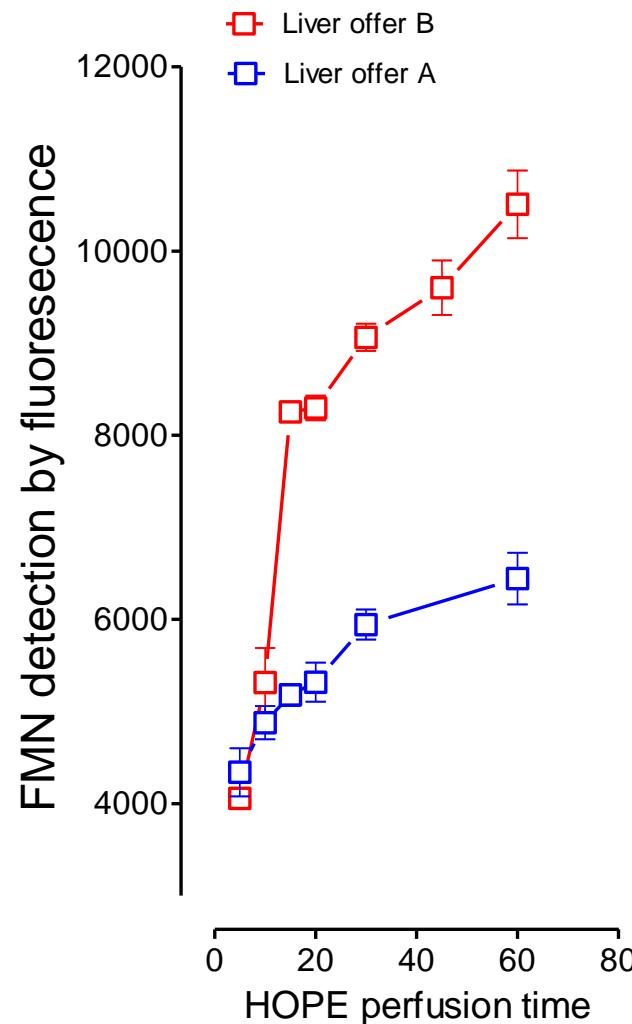
DBD, 55y
No cardiac arrest
Short donor ICU stay, no transaminase increase
no relevant steatosis
donor hepatectomy time 30 min

Organ offer A:

DBD, 83y
Cardiac arrest
>10 days ICU stay, ase
20 % macristeatosis, 5 % microsteatosis
donor hepatectomy time 40 min

Viability assessment during HOPE

Real Time FMN Detection



Organ offer B:

DBD, 55y
No cardiac arrest
Short donor ICU stay, no transaminase increase
no relevant steatosis
donor hepatectomy time 30 min

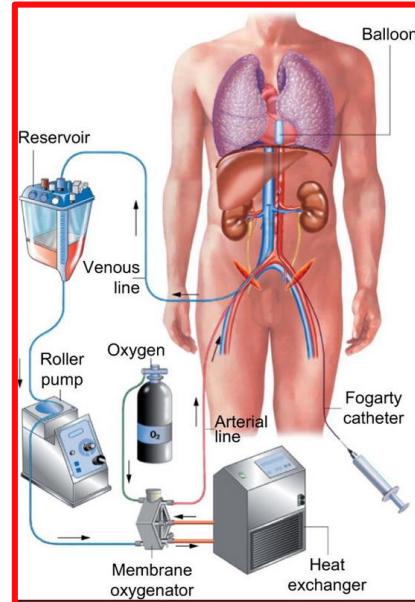
Organ offer A:

DBD, 83y
Cardiac arrest
>10 days ICU stay, ase
20 % macrsteatosis, 5 % microsteatosis
donor hepatectomy time 40 min

HOPE for the future?

Update of the French cDCD Protocol

- 2015-2021
- Well selected Donors
- Excellent outcomes



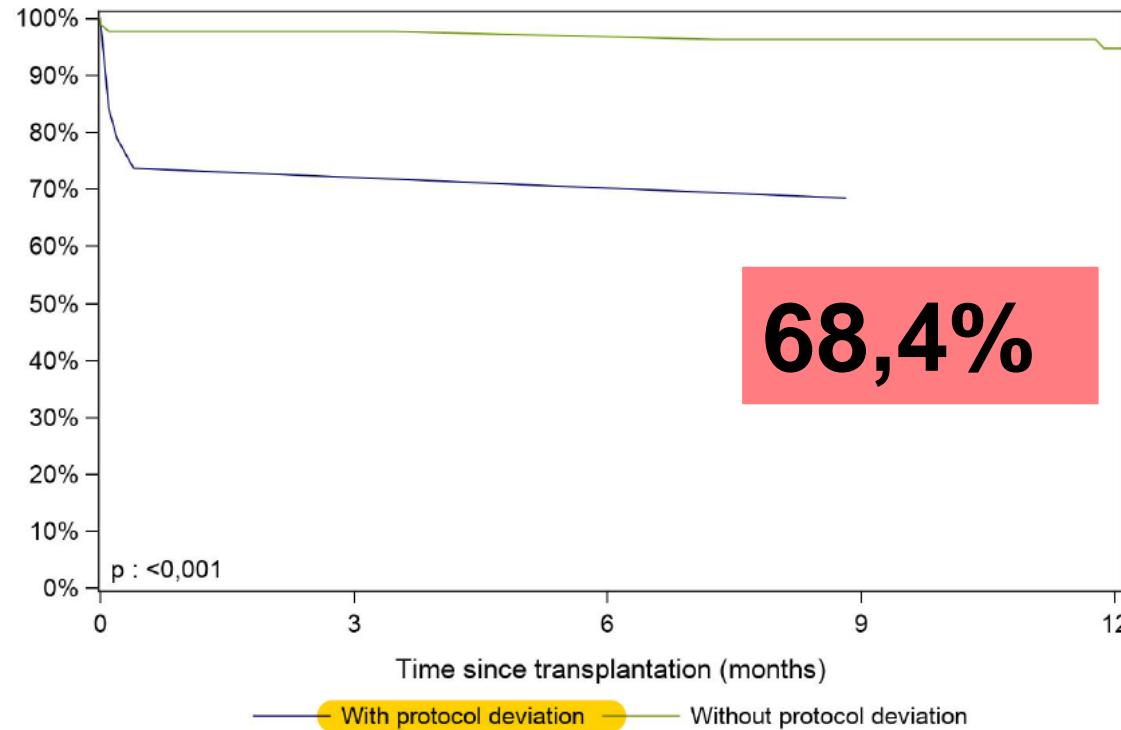
Original Clinical Science—Liver



**Favorable Outcomes of Liver Transplantation
from Controlled Circulatory Death Donors Using
Normothermic Regional Perfusion Compared to
Brain Death Donors**

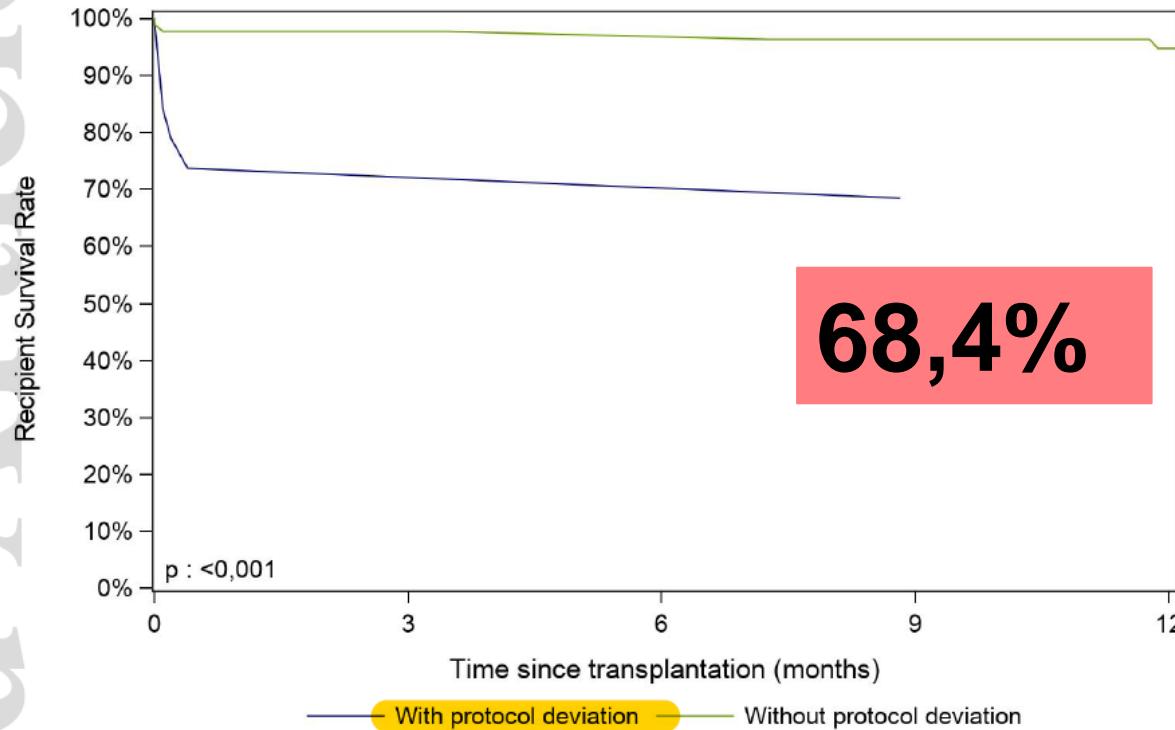
Update of the French cDCD Protocol

Figure 2. One-year graft survival according to deviation from the national protocol

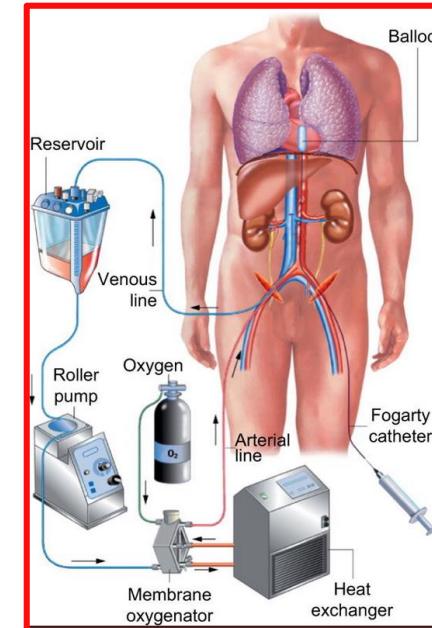


Update of the French cDCD Protocol

Figure 2. One-year graft survival according to deviation from the national protocol



- From September 2021
- **Extended criteria Donors**

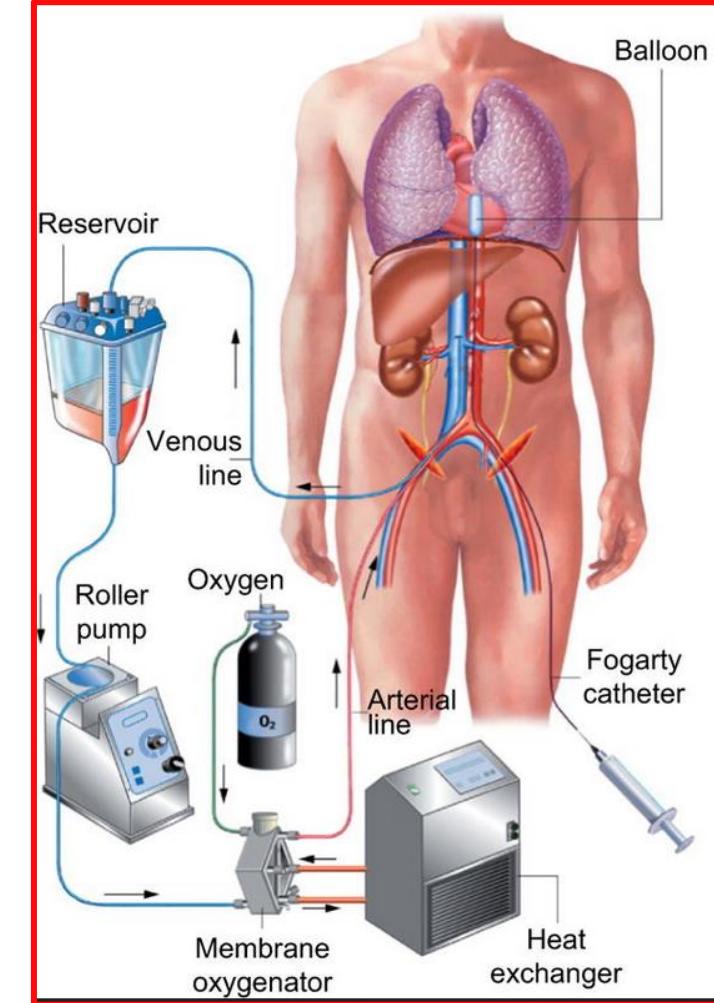


+



NRP + HOPE for marginal grafts

Donor ALAT > 8x N during NRP



NRP + HOPE for marginal grafts

Donor ALAT > 8x N

🌡 -Warm ischemia: 36 min

⌚ -Static Cold Storage : 308 min

⌚ -HOPE : 60 min



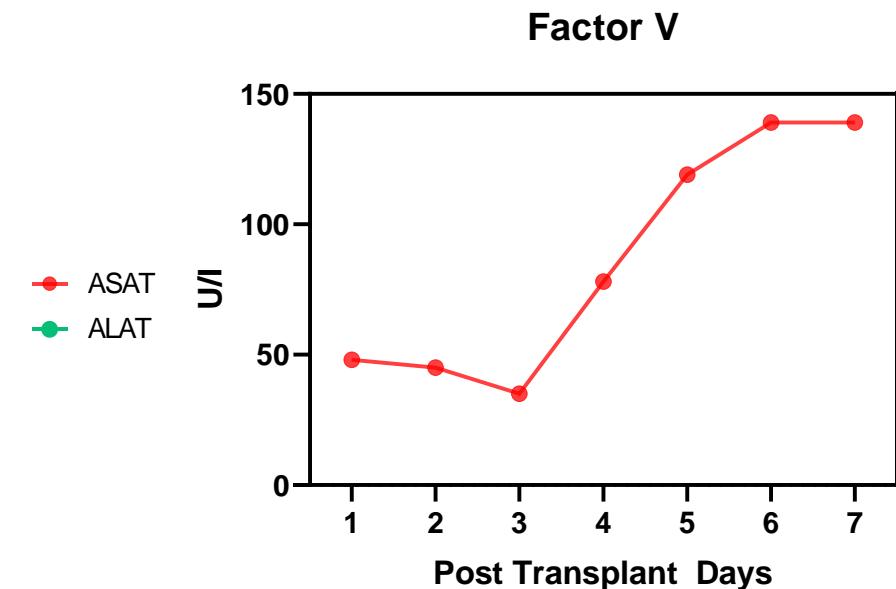
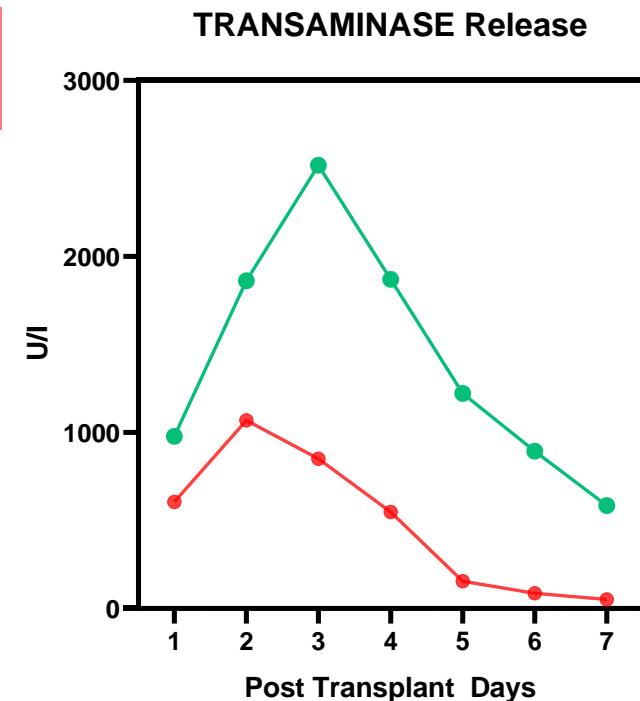
NRP + HOPE for marginal grafts

Donor ALAT > 8x N

🌡️ -Warm ischemia: 36 min

⌚ -Static Cold Storage : 308 min

⌚ -HOPE : 60 min



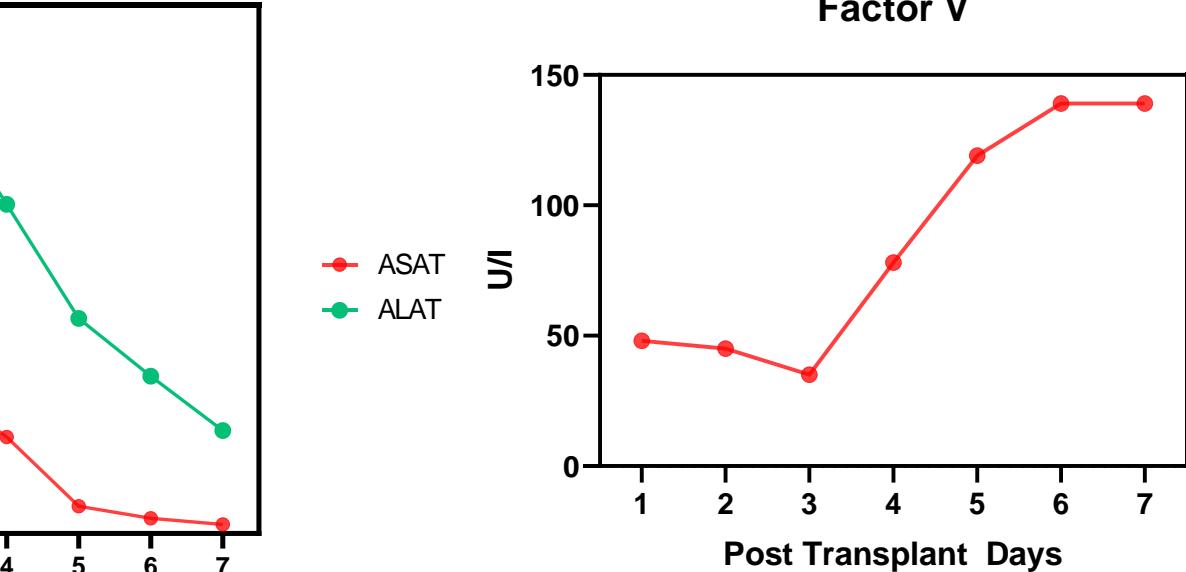
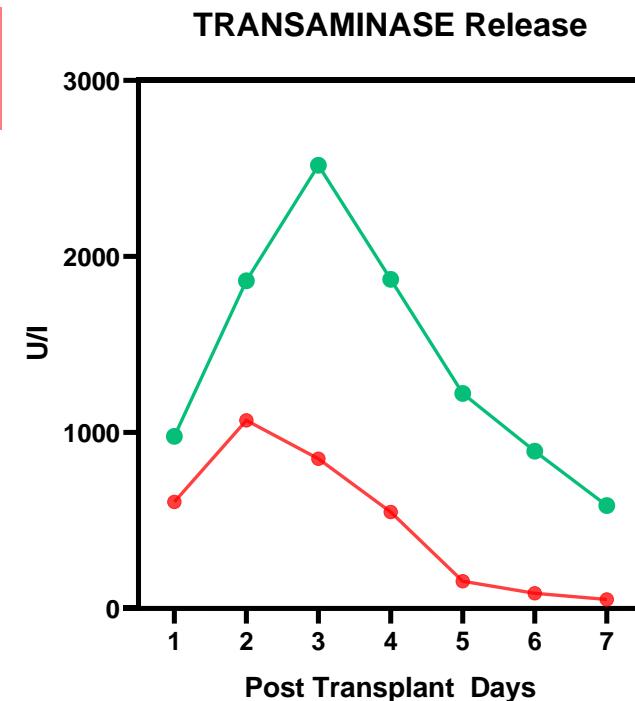
NRP + HOPE for marginal grafts

Donor ALAT > 8x N

🌡️ -Warm ischemia: 36 min

⌚ -Static Cold Storage : 308 min

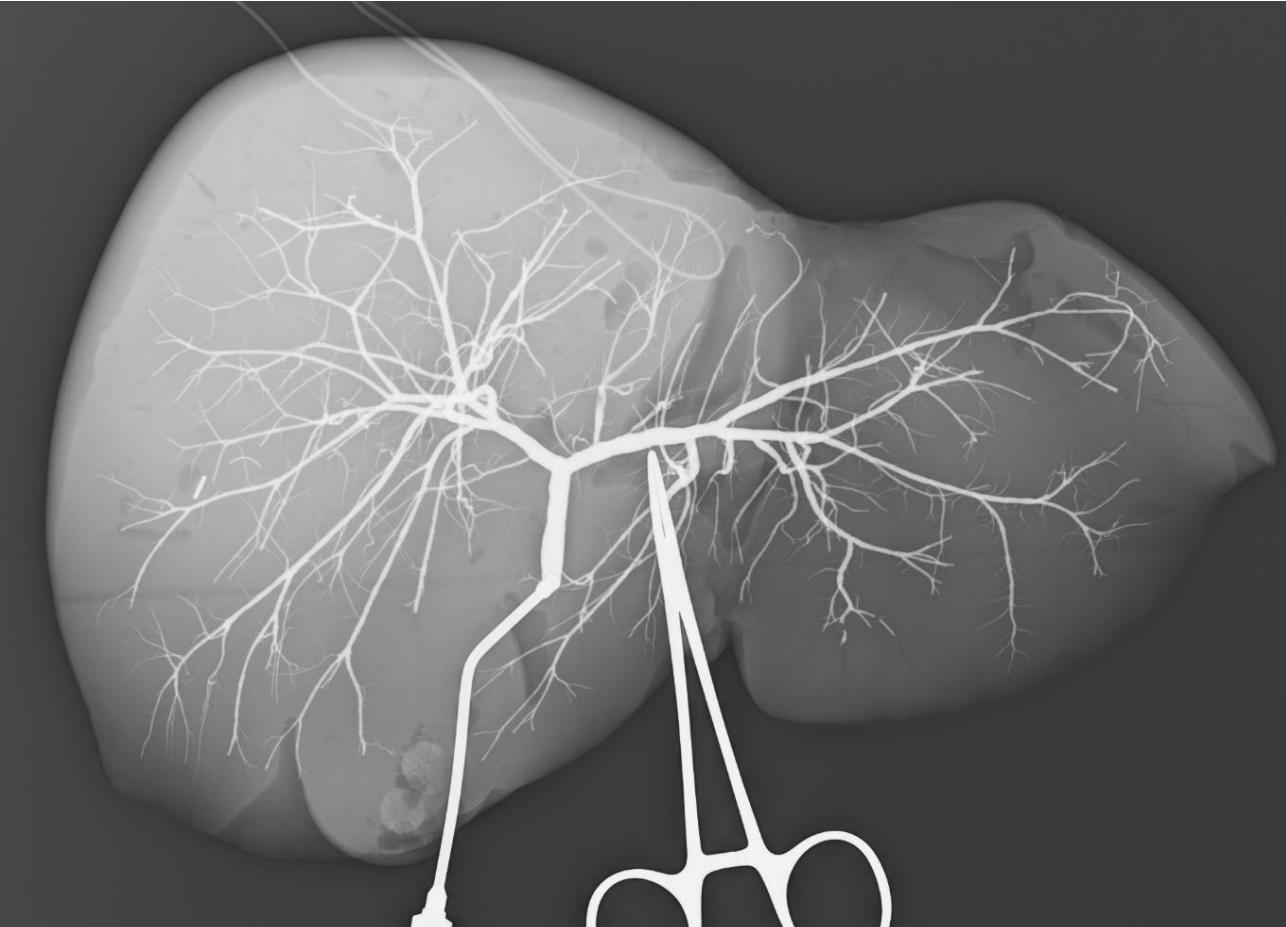
⌚ -HOPE : 60 min



**ICU Stay 4 Days
Hospital Stay 10 Days**

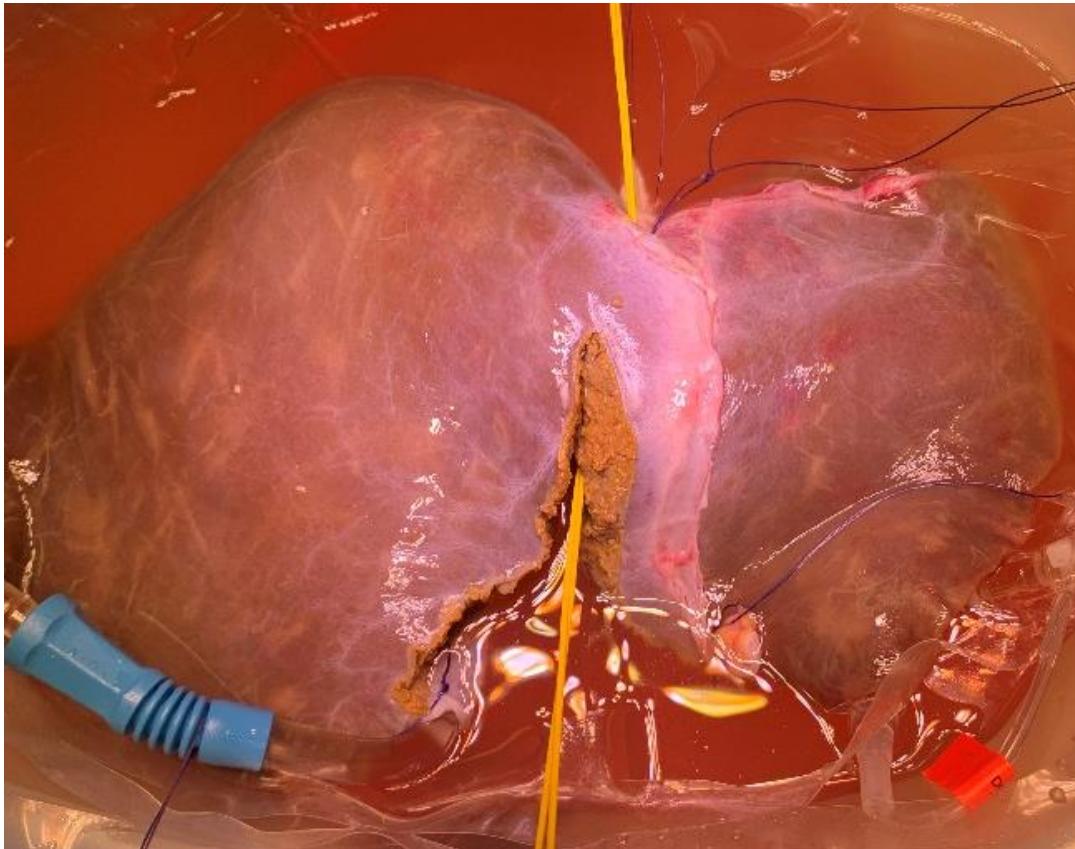
Ex Vivo Liver Splitting and Hypothermic Oxygenated Machine Perfusion: Technical Refinements of a Promising Preservation Strategy in Split Liver Transplantation

Jean-Yves Mabrut, MD, PhD,^{1,2} Mickaël Lesurtel, MD, PhD,^{1,2} Xavier Muller, MD,^{1,2}
Rémi Dubois, MD,³ Christian Ducerf, MD, PhD,¹ Guillaume Rossignol, MD,^{2,3} and
Kayvan Mohkam, MD, PhD^{1,2,3}



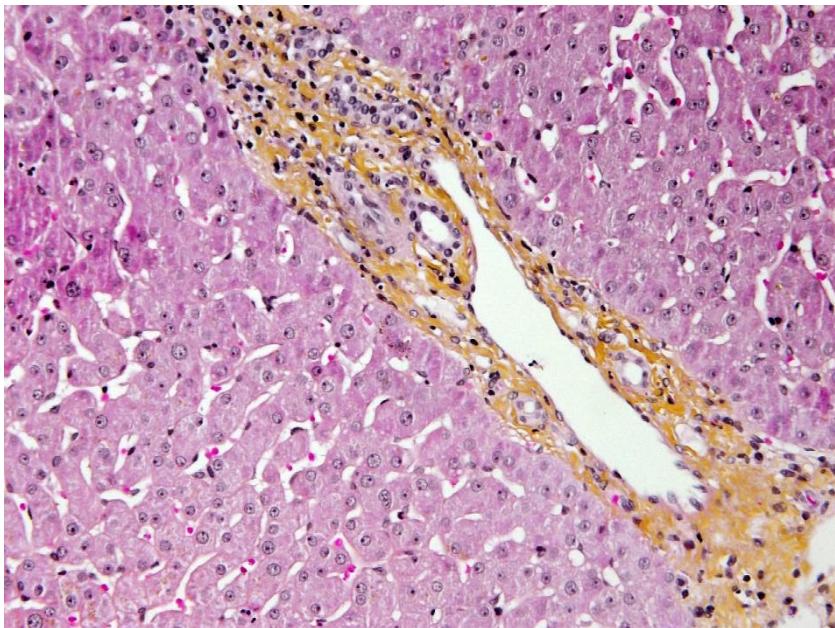
Ex Vivo Liver Splitting and Hypothermic Oxygenated Machine Perfusion: Technical Refinements of a Promising Preservation Strategy in Split Liver Transplantation

Jean-Yves Mabrut, MD, PhD,^{1,2} Mickaël Lesurte, MD, PhD,^{1,2} Xavier Muller, MD,^{1,2}
Rémi Dubois, MD,³ Christian Ducerf, MD, PhD,¹ Guillaume Rossignol, MD,^{2,3} and
Kayvan Mohkam, MD, PhD^{1,2,3}

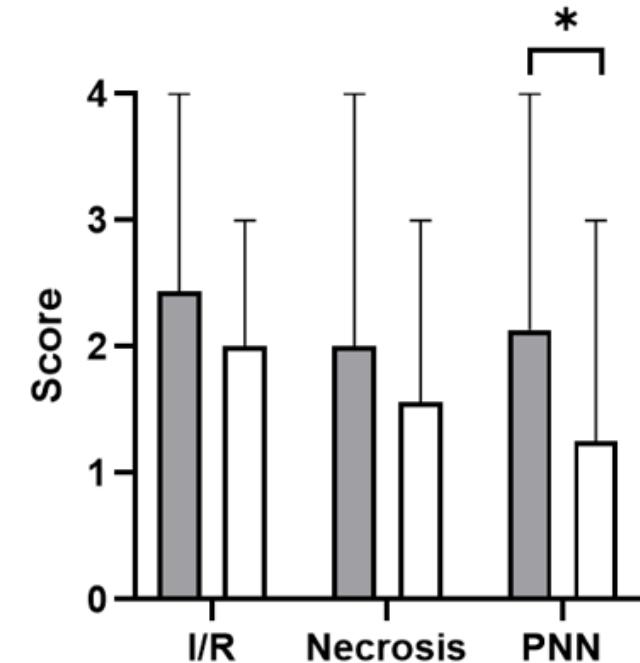
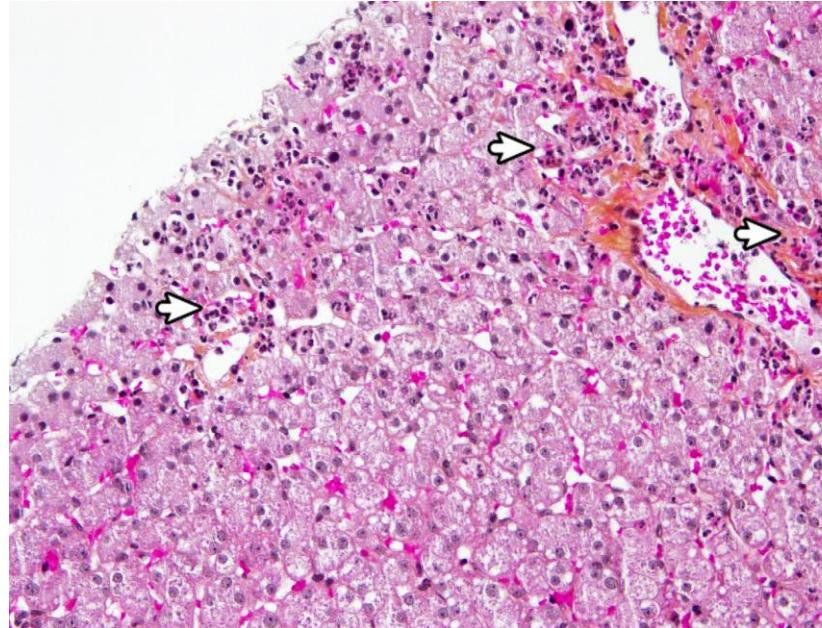


HOPE SPLIT

HOPE Split



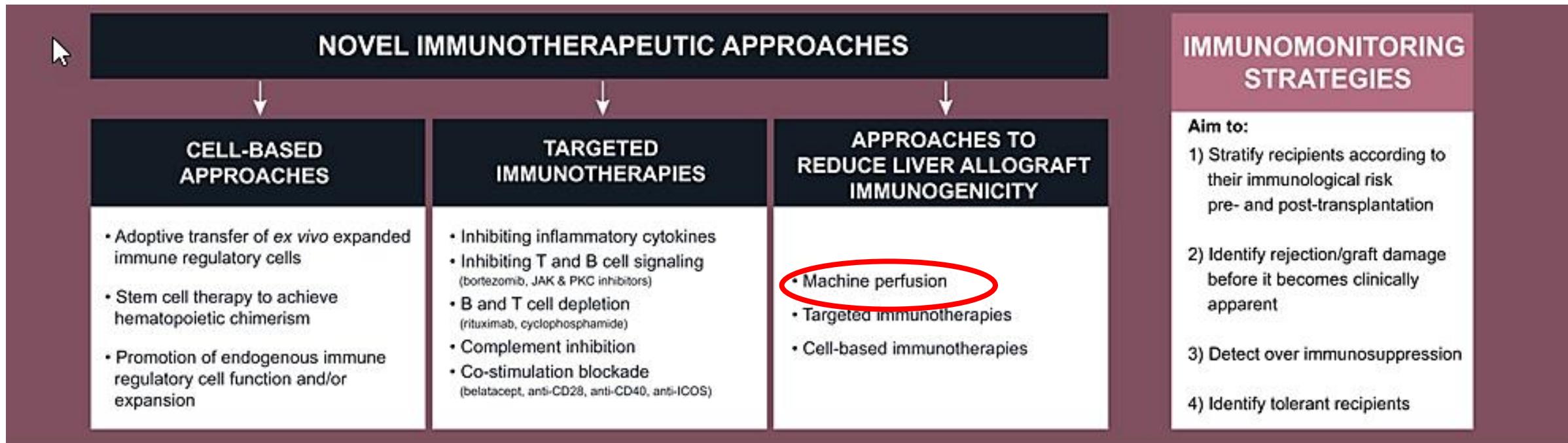
Standard Split



**Reduction in sterile inflammation after reperfusion
in the HOPE Split Group**

Unpublished data

Graft Immunomodulation



Graft Immunomodulation

Review

Preventing Tumour Recurrence after Liver Transplantation: The Role of Machine Perfusion

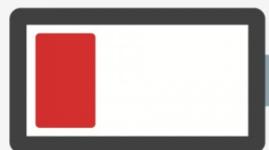
ESA PAPER

Hypothermic Oxygenated Liver Perfusion (HOPE) Prevents Tumor Recurrence in Liver Transplantation From Donation After Circulatory Death

Boteon *et al*, IJMS 2020
Mueller *et al*, AoS 2020

Conclusion

Marginal
Liver
Grafts



Conclusion

**Marginal
Liver
Grafts**



Safe



Protect



**Assess
Viability**



Conclusion

Marginal
Liver
Grafts



Safe



Protect



Assess
Viability



Longer
Follow-up



National RCT



Financial
Aspect



Logistics





MERCI

Xavier Muller, Guillaume Rossignol,

Antoine Breton, Joris Couillerot

Department of Surgery and Transplantation,
Croix Rousse University Hospital