Cost Effectiveness of Immunosuppression Reduction in Pediatric Liver Transplant Recipients

Liver transplantation is life saving therapy for children with end stage liver disease. Immunosuppression reduction and withdrawal has the potential to reduce costs and comorbidities however there is the risk of graft rejection. The aim of our project was to assess the cost effectiveness of immunosuppression reduction in pediatric liver transplant recipients. In order to perform a cost effectiveness analysis, data on health utilities were needed for our population. Ideally health utilities are obtained directly by the standard gamble or time trade off technique, however this is time consuming. Health utility surveys may also be used to obtain these indirectly. Data on costs would be obtained through the cost accounting system at our institution.

Prior to receiving this award we enrolled 36 patients over twelve months who completed health utility surveys only. This award allowed us to:

- Convert all health utility and quality of life surveys to a digital format using resources from the CTC. Once surveys were completed they were automatically uploaded to a secure database negating the need for separate data entry.
- Provide funding for a research assistant to help with data collection and administering of UMaker to directly assess health utilities
- Enroll 48 additional patients since funding was received in February 2013 for a total enrollment of 84 liver transplant recipients (Target of 120)
- Directly assess health utilities in 29 patients using the Time Trade off and Standard Gamble techniques (Target of 40)
- Collect sufficient data for a presentation at the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease in November 2013