

Backdating Waiting Time to Dialysis Start in the New US Kidney Allocation System

Dorry Segev, MD, PhD^{1,2}

Bryn Thompson, MPH¹

David Zaun, MS¹

Nicholas Salkowski, PhD¹

Susan Leppke, MPH¹

Ajay Israni, MD, MS¹

Bertram Kasiske, MD, FACP¹

Jon Snyder, PhD, MS¹

¹ Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients, Minneapolis, MN, USA

² Department of Surgery, Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, MD, USA



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Dorry Segev, MD, PhD

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Background

- In June 2013, OPTN approved a new kidney allocation system in the US.
- Candidates will be reordered and waiting time awarded based on the earlier of:
 - 1) start of maintenance dialysis, or
 - 2) listing with glomerular filtration rate less than 20 mL/min/1.73 m².
- Backdating to dialysis start will change the rank of patients currently on the waiting list.
- We studied possible effects backdating will have on candidates and transplant programs.

Methodology

Study
Population:

- Candidates on the kidney or kidney-pancreas waiting lists on June 1, 2013.

Primary
Measure:

- Waiting time under current policy compared to waiting time backdated to dialysis start.
- Retransplant candidates were backdated to the retransplant listing date.

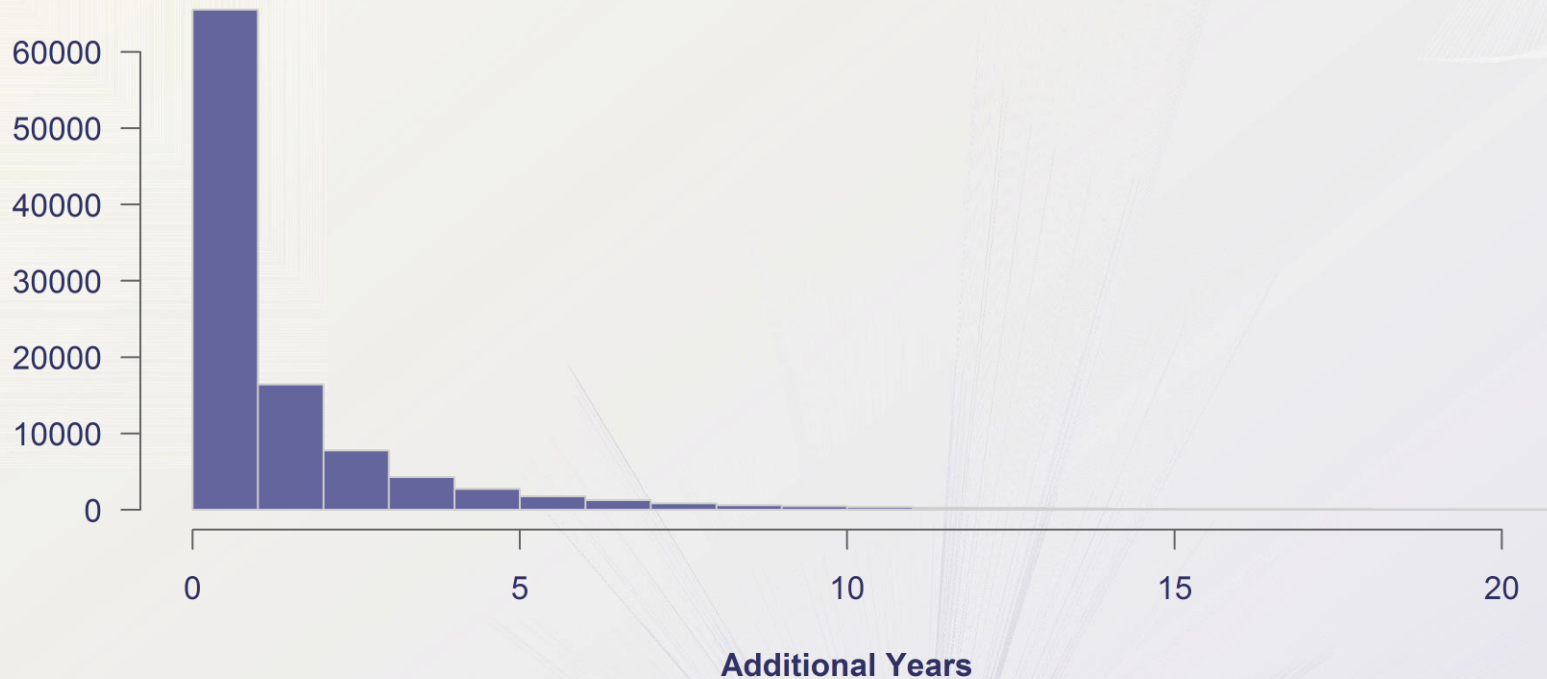
Assessing the
effect on patient
populations:

- Median change in waiting time was estimated within subgroups by age, sex, race, and Hispanic ethnicity.

Assessing the
effect on
transplant
programs:

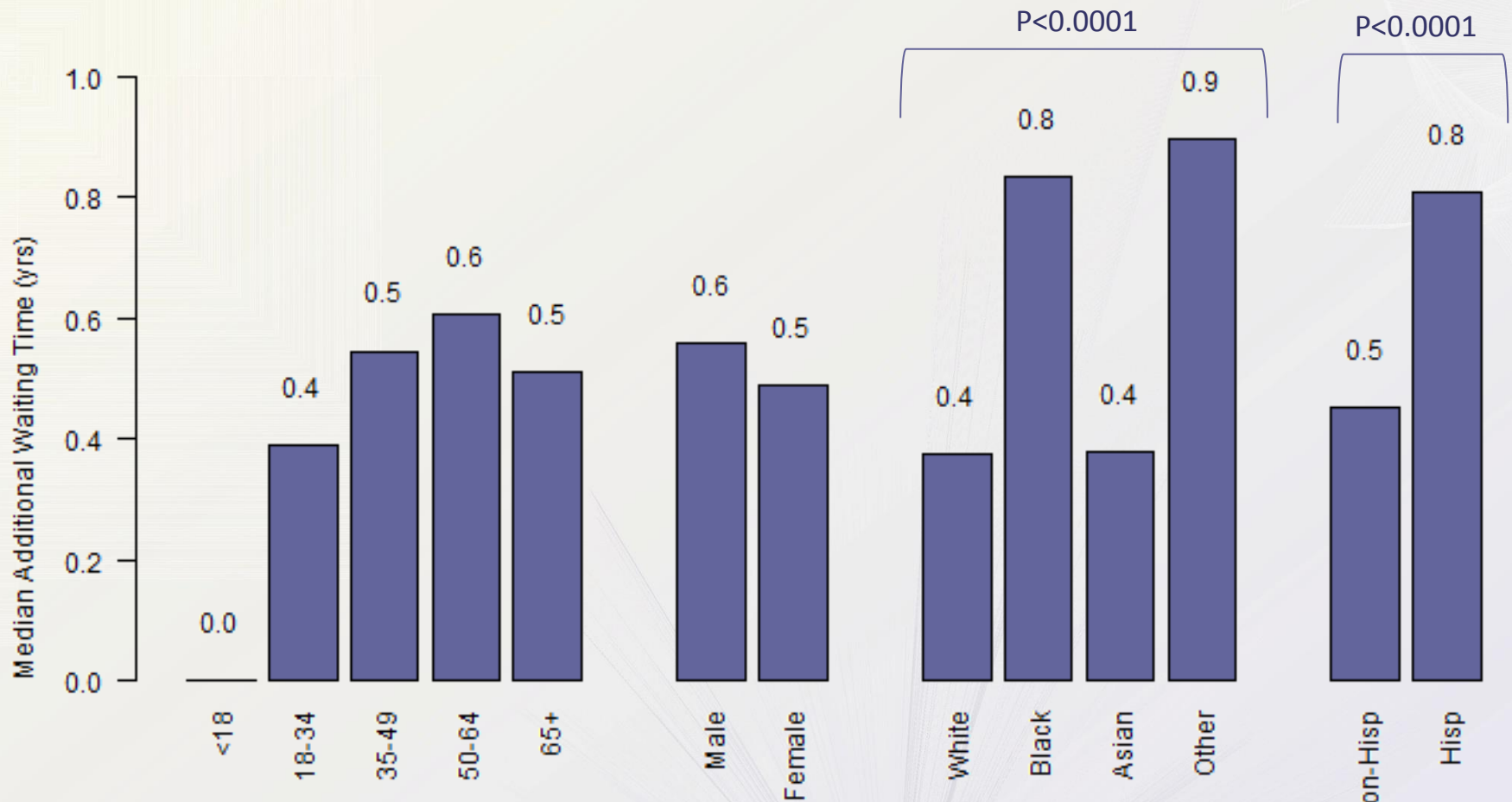
- Percentage of candidates in the top quartile of rank on the local list was calculated under the current and new systems

Distribution of Additional Waiting Time Awarded Under the Backdating Policy



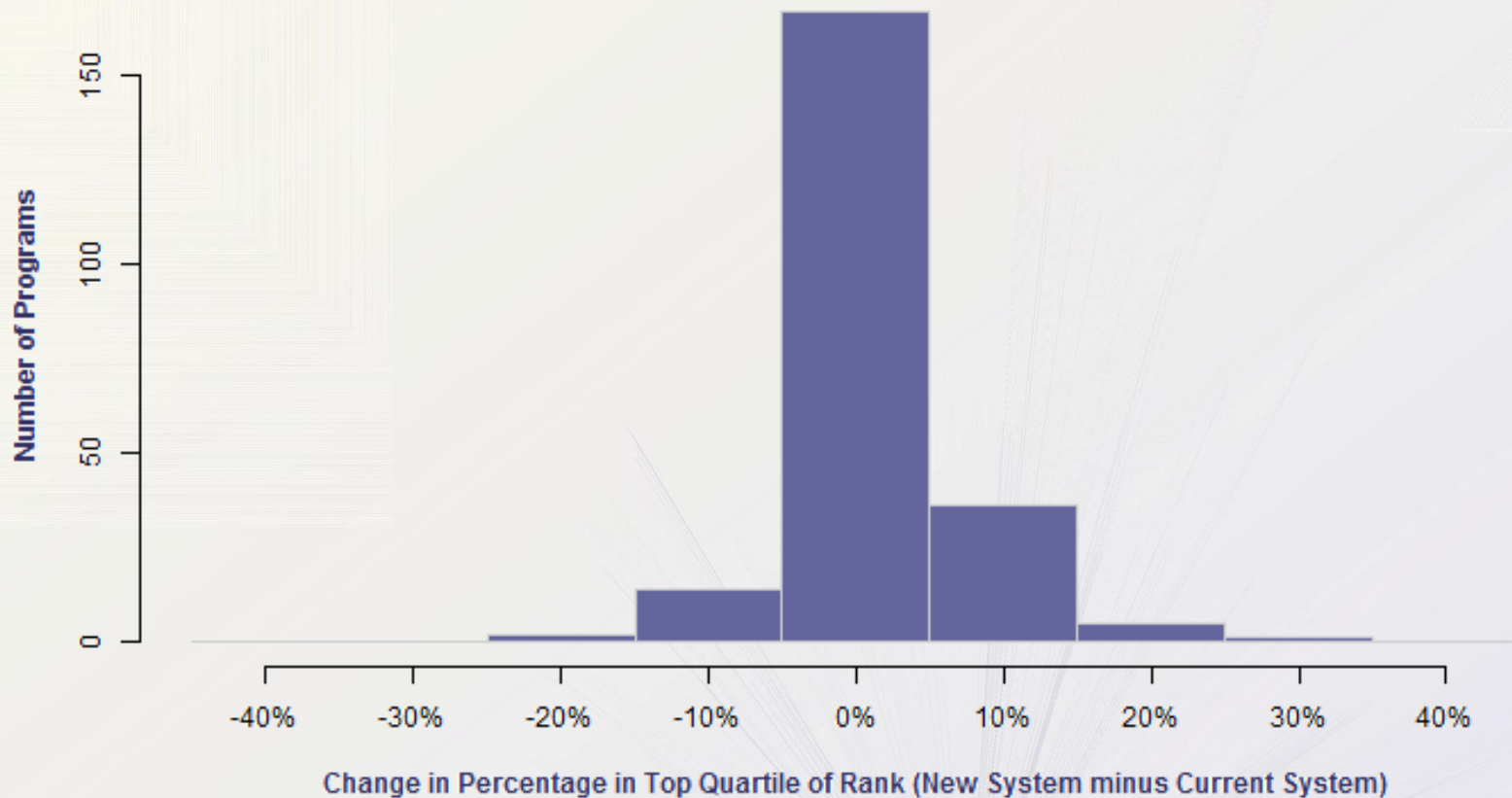
Effect of Backdating on Patient Groups

Figure 1. Median Additional Waiting Time (years) by Age, Gender, Race, and Ethnicity



Potential Effect on Transplant Programs: Change in Percentage of Candidates in the Top Quartile of Rank

Figure 2. Change in the Percentage of Each Program's Candidates who are in Upper Quartile of Rank on the Local Waiting List



Note: Includes only programs with at least 10 candidates on the list.

Conclusions

- For 90% of programs, the percentage of patients in the top quartile changed by less than 10%, and for 3% of programs, the percentage declined by more than a 10%.
- The new policy may affect individual transplant programs differently, and a handful of programs may experience a significant decline in the percentage of candidates near the top of the list.