SCOTTISH DONATION AND TRANSPLANT GROUP (SDTG)
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Tissue Donation Update

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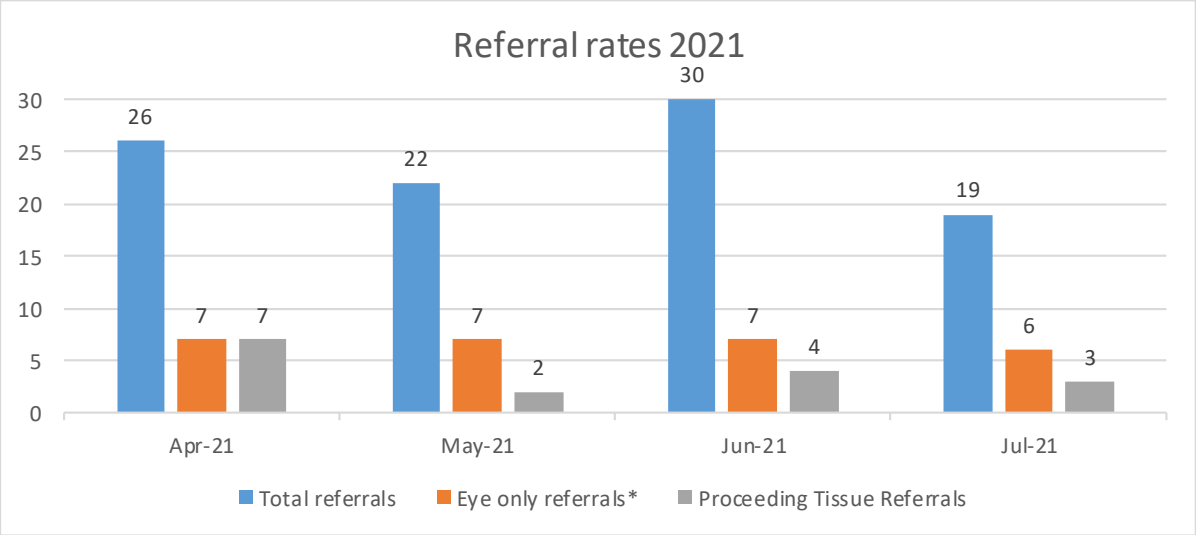
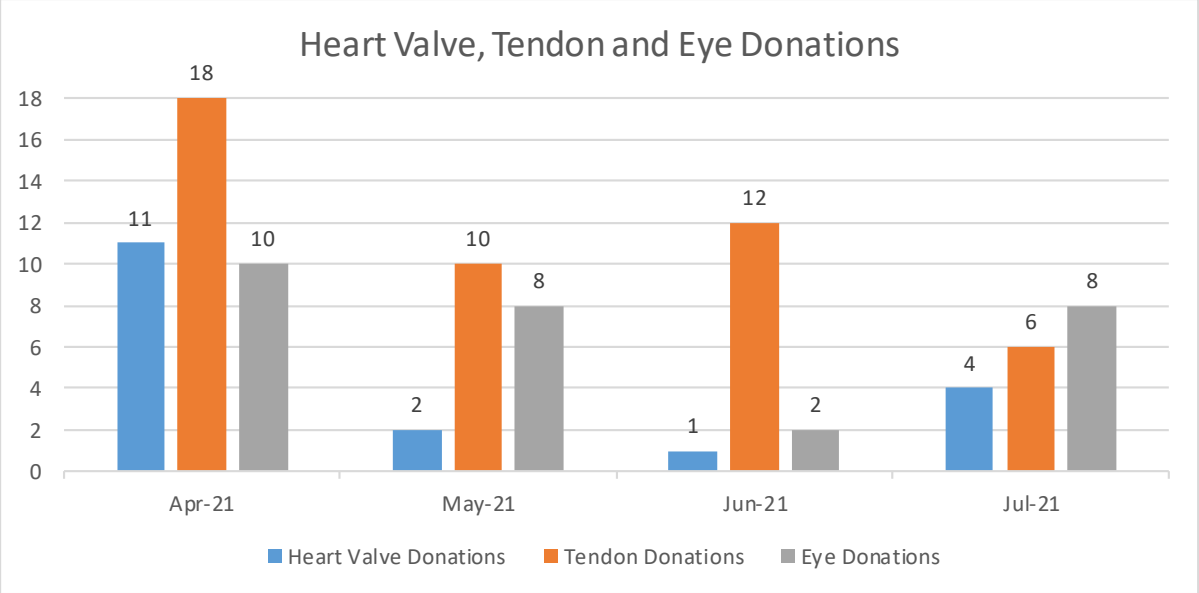
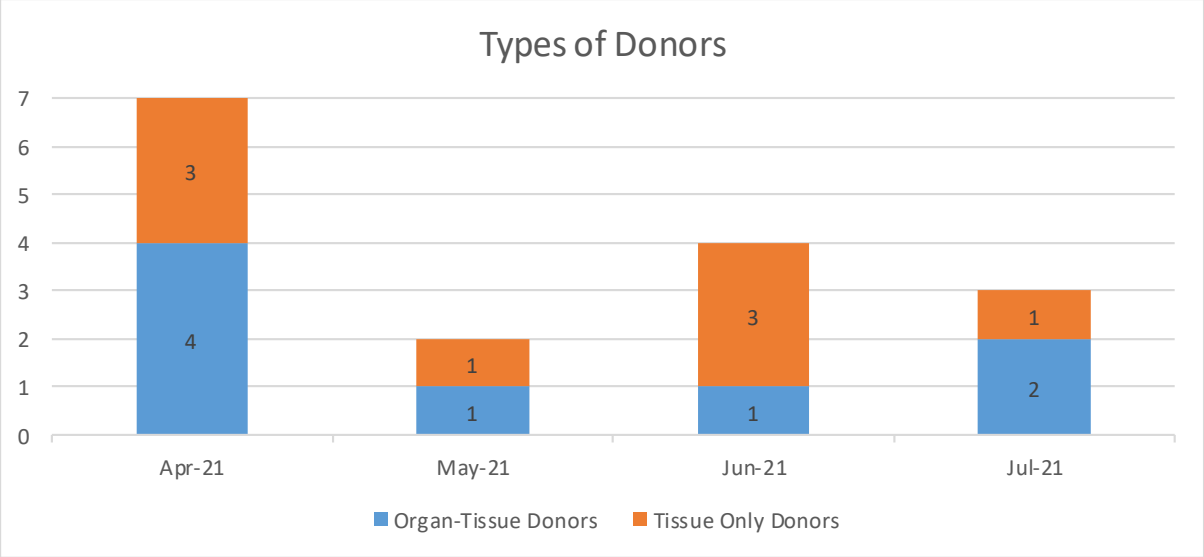
Deceased Tissue Donation

Despite the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on NHS Scotland, deceased tissue donation has continued throughout with good engagement with the hospitals. During the first 4 months of this financial year (up to end July 2021), there were a total of 97 referrals to SNBTS, of which 16 were suitable for deceased tissue donation. Of the 16 donors, half were organ donors first, with the rest donating tissue only. These 16 donors donated a total of 18 heart valves and 46 tendons. There were also a further 27 eye-only donors referred to NRC (NHSBT), with SNBTS retrieving a total of 28 eyes from 14 donors.



**Eye-only donor referrals are managed by NRC, NHSBT*





Pancreatic Islet Programme

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unexpected impact on the islet service as different suppliers of bespoke reagents that are essential for islet processing struggled (or even failed) to continue to supply essential reagents in a timely manner, with a number of suppliers completely discontinuing some essential reagents. This has impacted islet labs all over the world and has required SNBTS to risk assess a number of different suppliers for reagents that are often difficult to identify as readily available off the shelf products due to their bespoke nature.

Despite this the SNBTS Islet Isolation Lab has continued to process pancreata for clinical transplantation with excellent results. To date in the first 4 months of the 2021/22 financial year (up to end of July 2021), 6 pancreata were offered to and

processed by SNBTS, of which 5 (87%) yielded a successful transplantable product by SNBTS release criteria, leading to a transplant on 4 (67%) occasions.

Live Bone Tissue Donation

NHS Scotland also has a significant clinical demand for the use of donated bone. Potential bone donors are identified from patients undergoing primary hip replacement, where the femoral head is being removed and replaced, but can be donated instead of being discarded to allow treatment of other patients e.g. patients with scoliosis or patients with fracture non-union.

In the past bone donation has been sufficient to meet clinical demand. The COVID-19 pandemic however continues to have a significant negative impact on the ability to progress bone donation. Despite pandemic related restrictions being eased off at community level, there is still an ongoing impact on the ability of hospitals to carry out elective operations with a number of hospitals once again needing to cancel (often at short notice and sometimes for extended periods of time) elective orthopaedic surgery; furthermore elective orthopaedic surgery currently continues to be progressing at a much slower rate compared to pre-pandemic rates of orthopaedic surgery due to the ongoing pressures on NHS Scotland. There is an additional ongoing impact of the fact that orthopaedic surgery has been delayed such that potential bone donors may end up needing donated bone themselves instead. As a result, the rate of bone donation remains lower than required to maintain a sufficient bone stock, while bone usage remains relatively increased despite the relatively low rate of orthopaedic elective operations going ahead just now.

In the first 3 months of this financial year (up to end of June 2021) the rate of bone donation vs usage is demonstrated in the table below; while the pandemic continues to have a negative impact on the donation rate, for the first time since the pandemic started the donation rate is currently slightly higher than the clinical usage rate, although close monitoring will still be required due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic on the various different hospitals:

	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Total
Issued	40	51	52	143
Used	40	48	40	128