

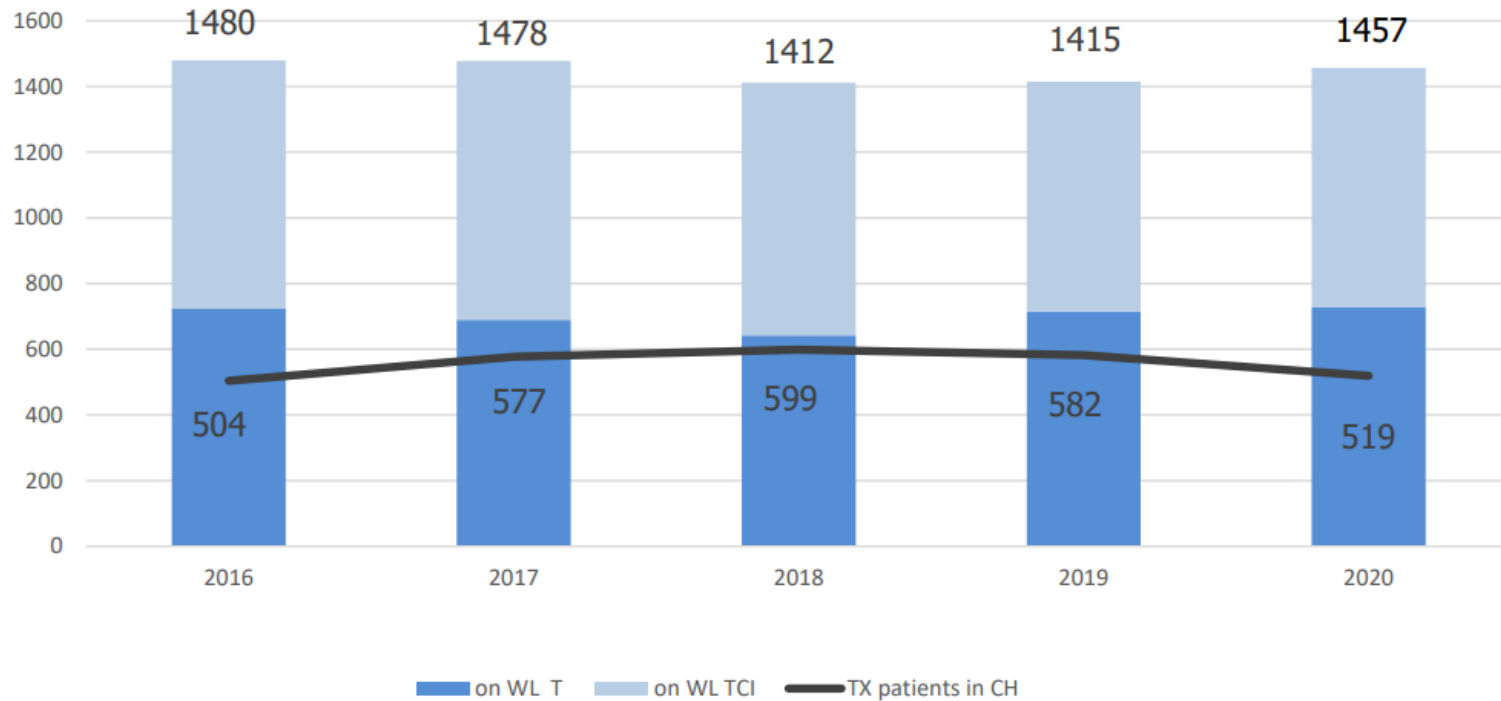
# **Xenotransplantation, a possible solution for the shortage of human organ donors ?**

Leo Bühler

# Need for Xenotransplantation ?



## WAITING LIST AND TRANSPLANTATIONS 2016-2020



# Alternatives to Allotransplantation ?

- **Mechanical Assist Devices / Artificial Organs**

  - Dialysis

  - Left ventricular assist-device (LVAD)

  - Biventricular assist-device (BVAD)

  - Total artificial heart (TAH)?

  - Artificial liver?

  - Artificial lung?

- Tissue engineering ?

- Stem cells ?

- **Xenotransplantation**

# **Advantages of Xenotransplantation**

- **Unlimited source of organs**
- **Elective surgery**
- **Earlier timing of transplantation**
- **Increased indications for transplantation**

# First attempts to perform organ (xeno)transplants



**“The future of organ transplantation depends on the feasibility to perform heterotransplantation”**

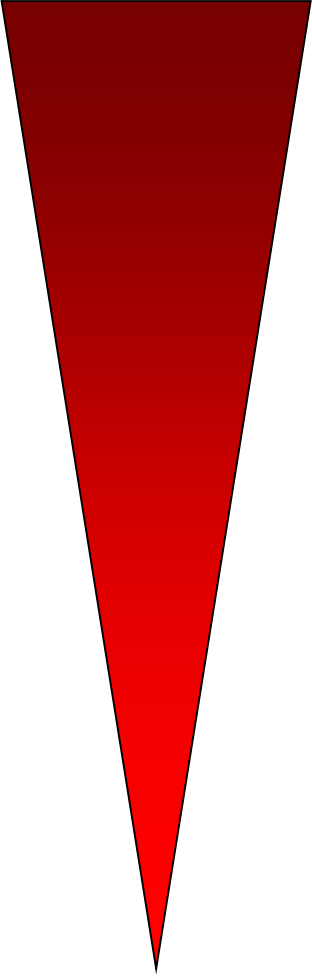
**Alexis Carrel 1907**

# Clinical Experience in Xenotransplantation



- **1984 »Baby Fae«**
- **Diagnosis: Hypoplastic left ventricle**
- **Survival of 20 days with baboon heart**
- **Histology: acute humoral rejection**

# Xenograft rejection: Pathogenesis

- 
- Antibody
  - Complement
  - Monocytes, macrophages, NK
  - T cells
  - Coagulation

# **New developments ?**

- **Manipulation of recipient**
- **Manipulation of donor**



# Manipulation of Donor

Transgenic animals,  
expressing human  
complement regulatory  
proteins:

- CD55 human decay accelerating factor (hDAF)
- CD46 membrane cofactor protein (MCP)
- CD59 membrane inhibitor of reactive lysis



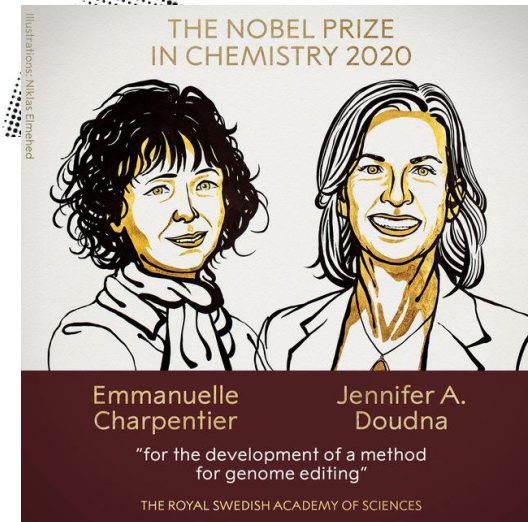
# GT-KO Miniature Swine, born 2002



**Piglet at two days  
of age**

# *CRISPR, 10 Years On: Learning to Rewrite the Code of Life*

The gene-editing technology has led to innovations in medicine, evolution and agriculture — and raised profound ethical questions about altering human DNA.



## ***New genetically modified pigs***

GTKO/CD46/CD55/CIITA-knockdown pigs

GTKO/CD55/CD59/CD39 pigs

GTKO/CD46/TMICAM

GTKO/CD46 expressing TFPI/CD39/CTLA4-Ig only in the islets

GTKO/CD46/TM

GTKO/CD47

...

ARTICLE

Received 20 Jan 2016 | Accepted 23 Feb 2016 | Published 5 Apr 2016

DOI: 10.1038/ncomms11138

OPEN

# Chimeric 2C10R4 anti-CD40 antibody therapy is critical for long-term survival of *GTKO.hCD46.hTBM* pig-to-primate cardiac xenograft

Muhammad M. Mohiuddin<sup>1</sup>, Avneesh K. Singh<sup>1</sup>, Philip C. Corcoran<sup>1</sup>, Marvin L. Thomas III<sup>2</sup>, Tannia Clark<sup>3</sup>, Billeta G. Lewis<sup>2</sup>, Robert F. Hoyt<sup>4</sup>, Michael Eckhaus<sup>2</sup>, Richard N. Pierson III<sup>5</sup>, Aaron J. Belli<sup>6</sup>, Eckhard Wolf<sup>7</sup>, Nikolai Klymiuk<sup>7</sup>, Carol Phelps<sup>8</sup>, Keith A. Reimann<sup>6</sup>, David Ayares<sup>8</sup> & Keith A. Horvath<sup>1</sup>

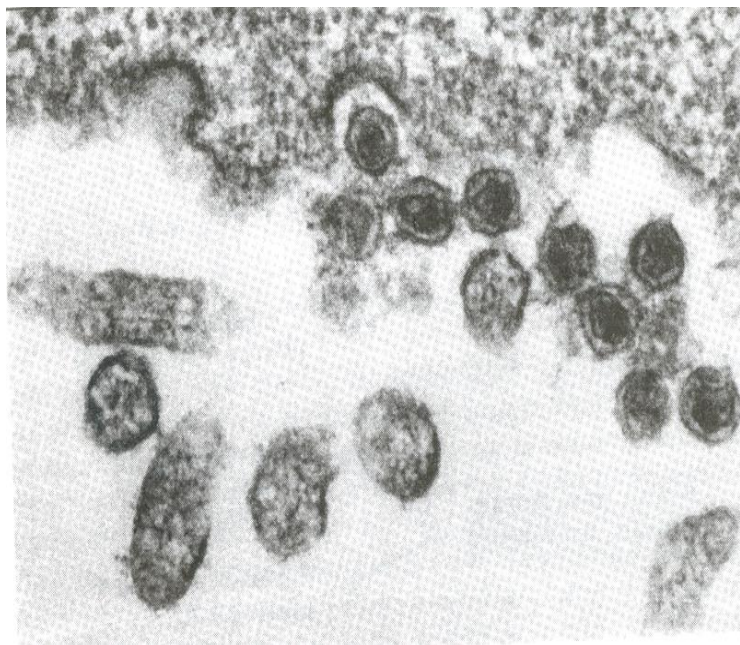
Donor pig: Alpha Gal Knockout, transgenic for human CD46 and hTBM

Recipient: Baboons

Immunosuppression: Thymoglobulin, Rituximab, Mycophenolate Mofetil , anti-CD 40 mAb

Results: Median Survival Time = 298 days, **longest survival 945 days**

# Porcine endogenous Retrovirus (PERV)



**PERV are present in the porcine genome**

**In vitro: infection of human cells possible (Patience et al. Nat Medicine, 1997)**

**In vivo: No infection detected in patients recipient of a porcine xenograft (Paradis et al. Science, 1999)**

Cite as: D. Niu *et al.*, *Science*  
10.1126/science.aan4187 (2017)

# Inactivation of porcine endogenous retrovirus in pigs using CRISPR-Cas9

Dong Niu,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Hong-Jiang Wei,<sup>3,4\*</sup> Lin Lin,<sup>5\*</sup> Haydy George,<sup>1\*</sup> Tao Wang,<sup>1\*</sup> I-Hsiu Lee,<sup>1\*</sup> Hong-Ye Zhao,<sup>3</sup> Yong Wang,<sup>6</sup> Yinan Kan,<sup>1</sup> Ellen Shrock,<sup>7</sup> Emal Lasha,<sup>1</sup> Gang Wang,<sup>1</sup> Yonglun Luo,<sup>5</sup> Yubo Qing,<sup>3,4</sup> Deling Jiao,<sup>3,4</sup> Heng Zhao,<sup>3,4</sup> Xiaoyang Zhou,<sup>6</sup> Shouqi Wang,<sup>8</sup> Hong Wei,<sup>6</sup> Marc Güell,<sup>1,†</sup> George M. Church,<sup>1,7,9,†</sup> Luhan Yang<sup>1,†,‡</sup>

<sup>1</sup>eGenesis, Inc., Cambridge, MA 02139, USA. <sup>2</sup>College of Animal Sciences, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310058, China. <sup>3</sup>State Key Laboratory for Conservation and Utilization of Bio-Resources in Yunnan, Yunnan Agricultural University, Kunming 650201, China. <sup>4</sup>College of Animal Science and Technology, Yunnan Agricultural University, Kunming, 650201, China. <sup>5</sup>Department of Biomedicine, Aarhus University, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark. <sup>6</sup>Department of Laboratory Animal Science, College of Basic Medical Sciences, Third Military Medical University, Chongqing, 400038, P. R. China. <sup>7</sup>Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02115, USA. <sup>8</sup>Research Institute of Shenzhen Jinxinnong Technology CO., LTD., Shenzhen 518106, China. <sup>9</sup>Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA.

\*These authors contributed equally to this work.

†These authors contributed equally to this work.

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Xenotransplantation is a promising strategy to alleviate the shortage of organ transplantation. In addition to the concern on pig-to-human immunological cross-species transmission of porcine endogenous retroviruses (PERV), the application of this approach is limited by the lack of a suitable primary cell line. Here, we confirmed that PERVs infect human cells. Using CRISPR-Cas9, we inactivated the PERV in a primary cell line and generated PERV-inactivated pigs via somatic cell nuclear transfer. This study highlighted the value of PERV inactivation to prevent cross-species transmission and the successful production of PERV-inactivated animals to address the shortage of organ transplantation.





## Human Organ and Tissue Transplantation

*From the Eighth Plenary Meeting of the Fifty-Seventh World Health Assembly in Geneva*

The Fifty-Seventh World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions WHA40.13, WHA42.5 and WHA44.25 on organ procurement and transplantation;

Having considered the report on human organ and tissue transplantation;

Noting the global increase in allogeneic transplantation of cells, tissues and organs;

Concerned by the growing insufficiency of available human material for transplantation to meet patient needs;

Aware of ethical and safety risks arising in the transplantation of allogeneic cells, tissues and organs, and the need for special attention to the risks of organ trafficking;

Recognizing that living xenogeneic cells, tissues or organs, and human bodily fluids, cells, tissues or organs that have had *ex vivo* contact with these living xenogeneic materials, have the potential to be used in human beings when suitable human material is not available;

Mindful of the risk associated with xenogeneic transplantation of the transmission of known or as yet unrecognized xenogeneic infectious agents from animals to human beings and from recipients of xenogeneic transplants to their contacts and the public at large;

Recognizing that transplantation encompasses not only medical but also legal and ethical aspects, and involves economic and psychological issues,

### Allogeneic Transplantation

1. URGES Member States:

- (1) to implement effective national oversight of procurement, processing and transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs, including ensuring accountability for human material for transplantation and its traceability;
- (2) to cooperate in the formulation of recommendations and guidelines to harmonize global practices in the procurement, processing and transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs, including development of minimum criteria for suitability of donors of tissues and cells;
- (3) to consider setting up ethics commissions to ensure the ethics of cell, tissue and organ transplantation;
- (4) to extend the use of living kidney donations when possible, in addition to donations from deceased donors;
- (5) to take measures to protect the poorest and vulnerable groups from "transplant tourism" and the sale of tissues and organs, including attention to the wider problem of international trafficking in human tissues and organs;

From the Eighth Plenary Meeting of the World Health Assembly, 22 May 2004, A57/P18, WHA45.18, agenda item 12.14.

Address correspondence to: Luc Noel, M.D., World Health Organization.  
E-mail: noell@who.int.

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ISSN 0041-1337/04/7804-493  
DOI: 10.1097/01.TP.0000137052.23326.E6

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to continue examining and collecting global data on the practices, safety, quality, efficacy and epidemiology of allogeneic transplantation and on ethical issues, including living donation, in order to update the Guiding Principles on Human Organ Transplantation (1);
- (2) to promote international cooperation so as to increase the access of citizens to these therapeutic procedures;
- (3) to provide, in response to requests from Member States, technical support for developing suitable transplantation of cells, tissues or organs, in particular by facilitating international cooperation;
- (4) to provide support for Member States in their endeavours to prevent organ trafficking, including drawing up guidelines to protect the poorest and most vulnerable groups from being victims of organ trafficking;

### Xenogeneic Transplantation

1. URGES Member States:

- (1) to allow xenogeneic transplantation only when effective national regulatory control and surveillance mechanisms overseen by national health authorities are in place;
- (2) to cooperate in the formulation of recommendations and guidelines to harmonize global practices, including protective measures in accordance with internationally accepted scientific standards to prevent the risk of potential secondary transmission of any xenogeneic infectious agent that could have infected recipients of xenogeneic transplants or contacts of recipients, especially across national borders;
- (3) to support international collaboration and coordination for the prevention and surveillance of infections resulting from xenogeneic transplantation;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to facilitate communication and international collaboration among health authorities in Member States on issues relating to xenogeneic transplantation;
- (2) to collect data globally for the evaluation of practices in xenogeneic transplantation;
- (3) to inform proactively Member States of infectious events of xenogeneic origin arising from xenogeneic transplantation;
- (4) to provide, in response to requests from Member States, technical support in strengthening capacity and expertise in the field of xenogeneic transplantation, including policy-making and oversight by national regulatory authorities;
- (5) to report at an appropriate time to the Health Assembly, through the Executive Board, on implementation of this resolution.

### REFERENCE

1. World Health Assembly. Document WHA44/1991/REC/1, Annex 6.

## Xenogeneic Transplantation

1. URGES Member States:

- (1) to allow xenogeneic transplantation only when effective national regulatory control and surveillance mechanisms overseen by national health authorities are in place;
- (2) to cooperate in the formulation of recommendations and guidelines to harmonize global practices, including protective measures in accordance with internationally accepted scientific standards to prevent the risk of potential secondary transmission of any xenogeneic infectious agent that could have infected recipients of xenogeneic transplants or contacts of recipients, especially across national borders;
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- (4) to provide, in response to requests from Member States, technical support in strengthening capacity and expertise in the field of xenogeneic transplantation, including policy-making and oversight by national regulatory authorities;
- (5) to report at an appropriate time to the Health Assembly, through the Executive Board, on implementation of this resolution.



## Inventory of Human Xenotransplantation practices



[Home](#)



[www.humanxenotransplant.org](http://www.humanxenotransplant.org)

- Home
- Introduction
- Questionnaire
- Database
- Contact addresses
- Links

[Home](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

[Database](#)

[Contact addresses](#)

[Links](#)

**View data** Specific search

No	Tissue/Animal/Country	Consult
1	- Kidney cells   Hamster   Switzerland	 
2	- Adult cells   Sheep   Germany	 
3	- Chromaffin cells   Calf   Switzerland	 
4	- Fetal cells   unknown   Switzerland	 
5	- Fetal ventral mesencephalic cell   Pig   USA	 
6	- stem cells   rabbit, pig,   Nigeria	 
7	Embryonic stem cells -   blue shark   Mexico	 
8	Embryonic stem cells - - fetal cells, adult cells   rabbits, cattle, sheep   Mexico	 
9	Embryonic stem cells - - fetal cells, adult cells   cattle, sheep,rabbits   Germany	 
10	Fetal islet like cell clusters -   Pig   Sweden	 
11	Hepatocytes -   Pig   France	 
12	Islets of Langerhans -   Pig   Russia	 
13	Islets of Langerhans -   Rabbit   Russia	 
14	Islets of Langerhans -   Pig   New zealand	 
15	Islets of Langerhans -   Pig   China	 
16	Islets of Langerhans - - Sertoli cells   Pig   Mexico	 

 Specific search

**Loi fédérale  
sur la transplantation d'organes, de tissus et de cellules  
(Loi sur la transplantation)**

du 8 octobre 2004 (Etat le 1<sup>er</sup> juillet 2007)

---

*L'Assemblée fédérale de la Confédération suisse,*  
vu l'art. 119a, al. 1 et 2, de la Constitution<sup>1</sup>,  
vu le message du Conseil fédéral du 12 septembre 2001<sup>2</sup>,  
*arrête:*

**Chapitre 3    Organes, tissus et cellules d'origine animale**

**Art. 43**        Régime de l'autorisation

<sup>1</sup> Quiconque entend transplanter sur l'être humain des organes, des tissus ou des cellules d'origine animale ou des transplants standardisés issus de ceux-ci doit préalablement obtenir une autorisation de l'office.

# Results of Two Cases of Pig-to-Human Kidney Xenotransplantation

Robert A. Montgomery, M.D., D.Phil., Jeffrey M. Stern, M.D., Bonnie E. Lonze, M.D., Ph.D., Vasishtha S. Tatapudi, M.D., Massimo Mangiola, Ph.D., Ming Wu, M.D., Elaina Weldon, M.S.N., A.C.N.P.-B.C., Nikki Lawson, R.N., Cecilia Deterville, M.S., Rebecca A. Dieter, Pharm.D., B.C.P.S., Brigitte Sullivan, M.B.A., Gabriella Boulton, B.A., [et al.](#)

## Abstract

**BACKGROUND** Xenografts from genetically modified pigs have become one of the most promising solutions to the dearth of human organs available for transplantation. The challenge in this model has been hyperacute rejection. To avoid this, pigs have been bred with a knockout of the alpha-1,3-galactosyltransferase gene and with subcapsular autologous thymic tissue.

May 19, 2022

N Engl J Med 2022; 386:1889-1898

DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2120238

Print Subscriber? [Activate your online access.](#)

## Related Articles

**PERSPECTIVE** MAY 19, 2022

Performed in 2021 at 2 centers:

- Follow-up of maximum 3 days
- Testing for technical logistics
- Public perception

# Clinical pig-to-human heart xenotransplant Baltimore January 7th 2022



BRIEF REPORT

## Genetically Modified Porcine-to-Human Cardiac Xenotransplantation

Bartley P. Griffith, M.D., Corbin E. Goerlich, M.D., Ph.D., Avneesh K. Singh, Ph.D., Martine Rothblatt, Ph.D., Christine L. Lau, M.D., Aakash Shah, M.D., Marc Lorber, M.D., Alison Grazioli, M.D., Kapil K. Saharia, M.D., Susie N. Hong, M.D., Susan M. Joseph, M.D., David Ayares, Ph.D., and Muhammad M. Mohiuddin, M.D.

### SUMMARY

A 57-year-old man with nonischemic cardiomyopathy who was dependent on venoarterial extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) and was not a candidate for standard therapeutics, including a traditional allograft, received a heart from a genetically modified pig source animal that had 10 individual gene edits. Immunosuppression was based on CD40 blockade. The patient was weaned from ECMO, and the xenograft functioned normally without apparent rejection. Sudden diastolic thickening and failure of the xenograft occurred on day 49 after transplantation, and life support was withdrawn on day 60. On autopsy, the xenograft was found to be edematous, having nearly doubled in weight. Histologic examination revealed scattered myocyte necrosis, interstitial edema, and red-cell extravasation, without evidence of microvascular thrombosis — findings that were not consistent with typical rejection. Studies are under way to identify the mechanisms responsible for these changes. (Funded by the University of Maryland Medical Center and School of Medicine.)

**A** 57-YEAR-OLD MAN WITH CHRONIC MILD THROMBOCYTOPENIA, HYPERTENSION, nonischemic cardiomyopathy, and previous mitral valve repair was hospitalized for severe heart failure with a left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) of 10%. His care was escalated to include multiple intravenous inotropic agents, and the placement of an intraaortic balloon pump was added on hospital day 11. Despite these measures, he had multiple ventricular arrhythmias with arrests leading to resuscitation and began to receive peripheral venoarterial extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) on hospital day 23.

The patient was deemed to have poor adherence to treatment, which is an exclusion criterion for allotransplantation and mechanical circulatory support. At the time that his condition was assessed by our hospital selection committee for advanced circulatory support, he had a 3-week history of nonambulatory status. His case was reviewed by two regional and two prominent national heart-transplantation programs, and the request for a transplant was denied by all four programs. Our selection committee agreed to consider experimental xenotransplantation. To offset the patient's history of poor adherence to treatment, enhanced postprocedure oversight was planned by the transplantation team. Although the patient favored a heart transplant from a human donor, he was informed of his options and agreed to undergo xenotransplantation.

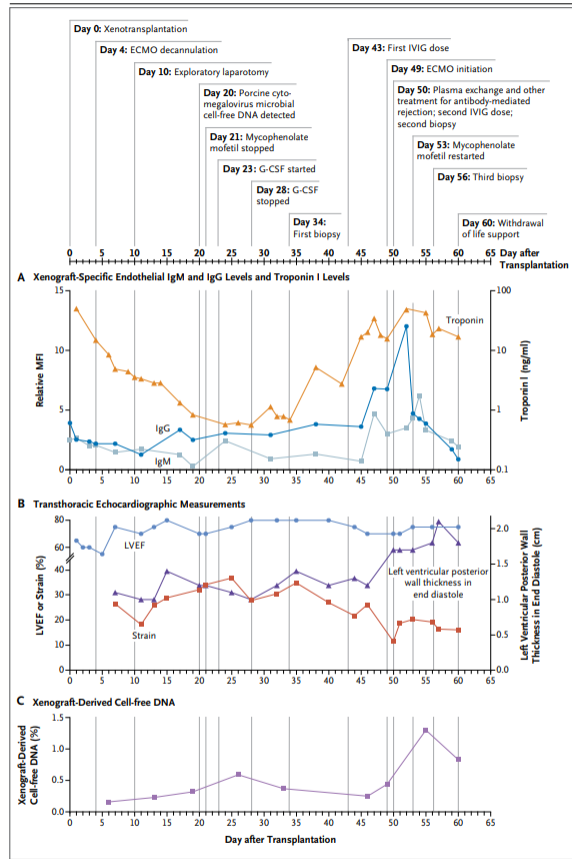
Despite his biventricular heart failure, the patient had preserved renal function

From the Department of Surgery (B.P.G., C.E.G., A.K.S., C.L.L., A.S., M.M.M.), the Program in Trauma, R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, Department of Medicine (A.G.), the Institute of Human Virology, Division of Infectious Diseases (K.K.S.), and the Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology (S.N.H., S.M.J.), University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, and United Therapeutics, Silver Spring (M.R., M.L.) — both in Maryland; and Revivacor, Blacksburg, VA (D.A.). Dr. Griffith can be contacted at [bgriffith@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:bgriffith@som.umaryland.edu) or at the Department of Surgery, University of Maryland School of Medicine, 110 S. Poca St., 7th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201. Dr. Mohiuddin can be contacted at [mmohiuddin@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:mmohiuddin@som.umaryland.edu) or at the Department of Surgery, University of Maryland School of Medicine, 10 S. Pine St., MSTF 434B, Baltimore, MD 21201.

This article was published on June 22, 2022, at [NEJM.org](https://www.nejm.org).

DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2201422

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## Activation of Cytomegalovirus in Pig-to-Primate Organ Xenotransplantation

Nicolas J. Mueller,<sup>1</sup> Rolf N. Barth,<sup>2</sup> Shin Yamamoto,<sup>2</sup> Hiroshi Kitamura,<sup>2</sup> Clive Patience,<sup>3</sup> Kazuhiko Yamada,<sup>2</sup> David K. C. Cooper,<sup>2</sup> David H. Sachs,<sup>2</sup> Amitinder Kaur,<sup>4</sup> and Jay A. Fishman<sup>1\*</sup>

Infectious Diseases Division, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School,<sup>1</sup> and Transplantation Biology Research Center, Massachusetts General Hospital,<sup>2</sup> Boston, Innmerge BioTherapeutics Inc., Charlestown,<sup>3</sup> and Division of Immunology, New England Regional Primate Research Center, Harvard Medical School, Southborough,<sup>4</sup> Massachusetts

Received 3 December 2001/Accepted 19 February 2002

Xenotransplantation of porcine organs carries the risk of reactivation of latent virus in donor and recipient tissues as well as transmission of viruses between species. We have investigated the activation of baboon cytomegalovirus (BCMV) and porcine CMV (PCMV) in a pig-to-primate model of xenotransplantation. Tissues originating from a series of six swine-to-baboon composite thymokidney xenotransplants were investigated. Four immunosuppressed baboons died (survival range, 7 to 27 days) with the graft in situ. Increases in BCMV DNA copy numbers occurred in three (75%) of these baboons and was thought to be responsible for pneumonitis and the death of one animal. In two baboons, disseminated intravascular coagulation was successfully treated by graftectomy and discontinuation of immunosuppression. PCMV was upregulated in five of six xenografts (83%). PCMV infection was associated with ureteric necrosis in one xenograft. Although significantly increased in native tissues, low levels of BCMV and PCMV were also detected in tissues other than that of the native viral host species. The cross-species presence of CMV did not appear to cause clinical or histological signs of invasive disease. Thus, viral infections with clinical disease were restricted to tissues of the native species of each virus. Intensive immune suppression currently required for xenotransplantation results in a significant risk of reactivation of latent infections by BCMV and PCMV. It is not yet known whether viral DNA detected across species lines represents cellular microchimerism, ongoing viral infection, or uptake of free virus. The observation of graft injury by PCMV demonstrates that CMV will be an important pathogen in immunosuppressed xenograft recipients. Strategies must be developed to exclude CMV from porcine organ donors.

Infection is a major problem in transplantation (7). In particular, cytomegalovirus (CMV) is the most significant post-transplant infection in human allotransplantation. CMV is activated from latency by the allo-immune response and by the immune suppression needed to maintain graft function (7, 17–19). CMV is a betaherpesvirus that causes invasive disease and lifelong latent infection in many mammalian species. Xenotransplantation of swine tissues has been proposed to alleviate the shortage of human organs available for allotransplantation. Swine are considered the organ donors of choice for xenotransplantation for reasons of physiological compatibility, breeding characteristics, and ethical considerations (13).

We have investigated the induction of xenograft tolerance in a pig-to-baboon model based on a previously described pig-to-mouse model involving thymectomy, T-cell depletion, and the transplantation of donor thymic tissue (14, 24). Allotransplant studies of miniature swine have demonstrated that composite thymic tissue-renal allografts with a limited course of immune suppression, thymectomy, and T-cell depletion can induce tolerance across class I and fully-mismatched barriers (23). However, xenotransplantation in the pig-to-baboon model requires intensive immune suppression. This suppression enhances the

risk of reactivation of latent CMV in the baboon recipient as well as in the transplanted porcine organ. Consequently, there may be an enhanced risk of transmission of these viruses between donor and recipient (5–7, 16). Techniques which readily distinguish active infection from passive acquisition of virus in vivo are not yet available.

We have developed quantitative molecular assays specific for baboon CMV (BCMV) and porcine CMV (PCMV) to assess the potential for activation of CMV replication and to investigate the potential for interspecies transmission of CMV in this pig-to-baboon model.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Pig-to-baboon xenotransplantation.** Landrace pigs ( $n = 5$ ; approximate weight on date of transplantation, 40 kg) transgenic for human decay-accelerating factor were provided by Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (East Hanover, N.J.). One animal served as the donor for two xenografts. Sera of two pig donors (for baboons 69-144 and 69-222) were available for PCMV serologic testing by an immune fluorescence assay, and they demonstrated titers of 1:1,024 and 1:64 (Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.). A composite thymokidney graft was created by the autologous transplantation of porcine thymic tissue from the native thymus under the renal capsule (22). After a period of 1 to 2 months, the thymic tissue developed a new blood supply from renal vessels with normal thymic architecture. These thymokidneys were used for xenotransplantation studies of baboons. Baboons (*Papio anubis*;  $n = 6$ ) weighing between 9 and 20 kg were purchased from Biological Resources Foundation (Houston, Tex.). At the time of thymokidney transplantation, all the baboons had additional porcine thymic tissue transplanted into the omentum. In each recipient, one native kidney remained in situ. All baboons used in these studies were BCMV seropositive (Esoterix Inc., San Antonio, Tex.).

\* Corresponding author. Mailing address: Transplantation Infectious Disease, Massachusetts General Hospital, 55 Fruit St., GRJ 504, Boston, MA 02114. Phone: (617) 726-5777. Fax: (617) 726-5411. E-mail: jfishman@partners.org.





**Enhancing Kidney Transplantation:  
The Role of Xenografts**

*A Scientific Workshop Sponsored by the National Kidney Foundation*

**April 11-12, 2022**

**Location: Washington, DC**

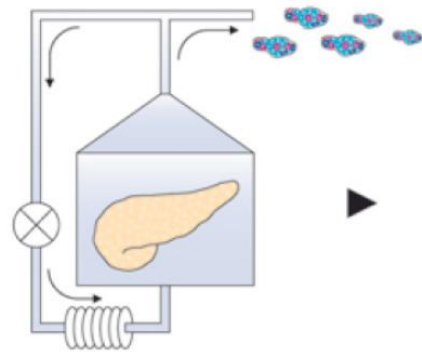
## New clinical trials for xenotransplantation:

- 1) Pre-clinical model with 6 months survival
- 2) Donor pig genetically modified with xenoantigens deletion and addition of transgenes
- 3) Patient selection based on age, allo-sensitization
- 4) Immunosuppression includes CD40 pathway mAb
- 5) Infectious disease surveillance requires screening of donor animals, long-term follow-up recipient her/his close contacts

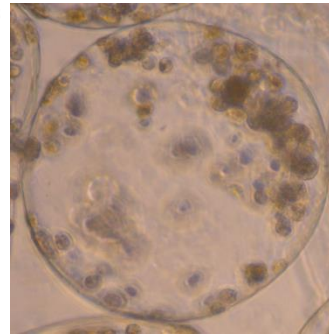
# Cell Xenotransplantation



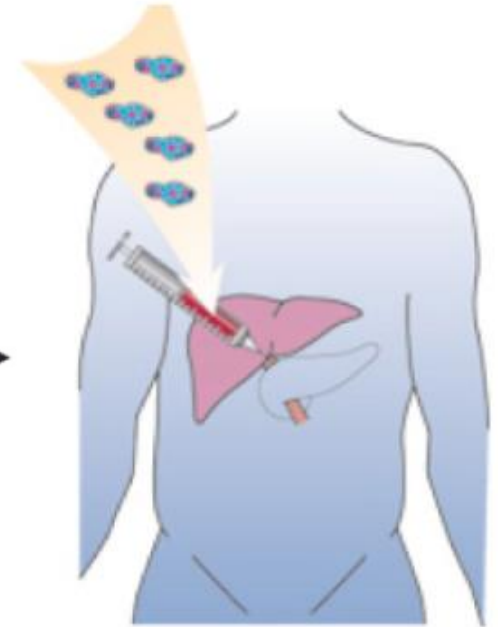
Porcine organ donor  
(pancreas or liver)



Cell isolation



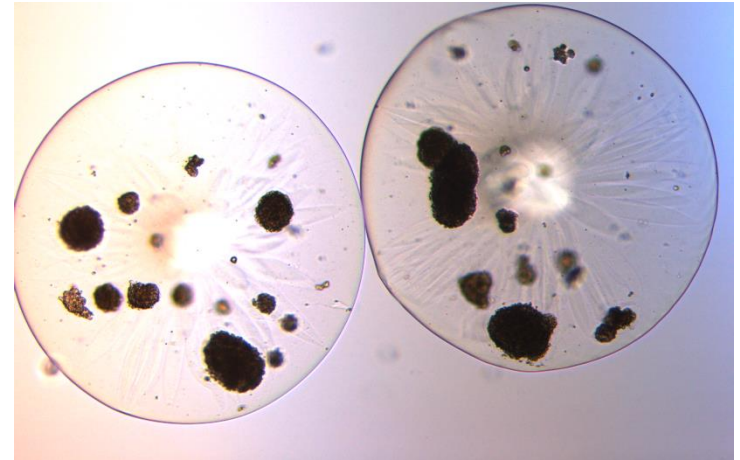
Encapsulation  
(size of  
capsules 400  
microns)



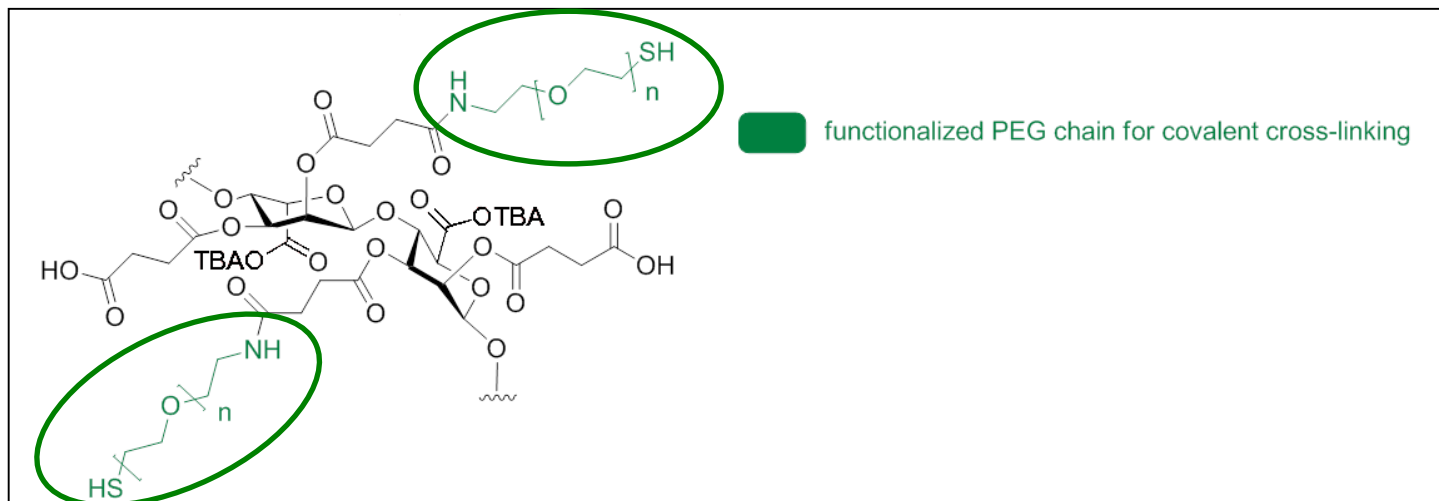
Transplantation  
to human

# Immunoprotection of encapsulated cells

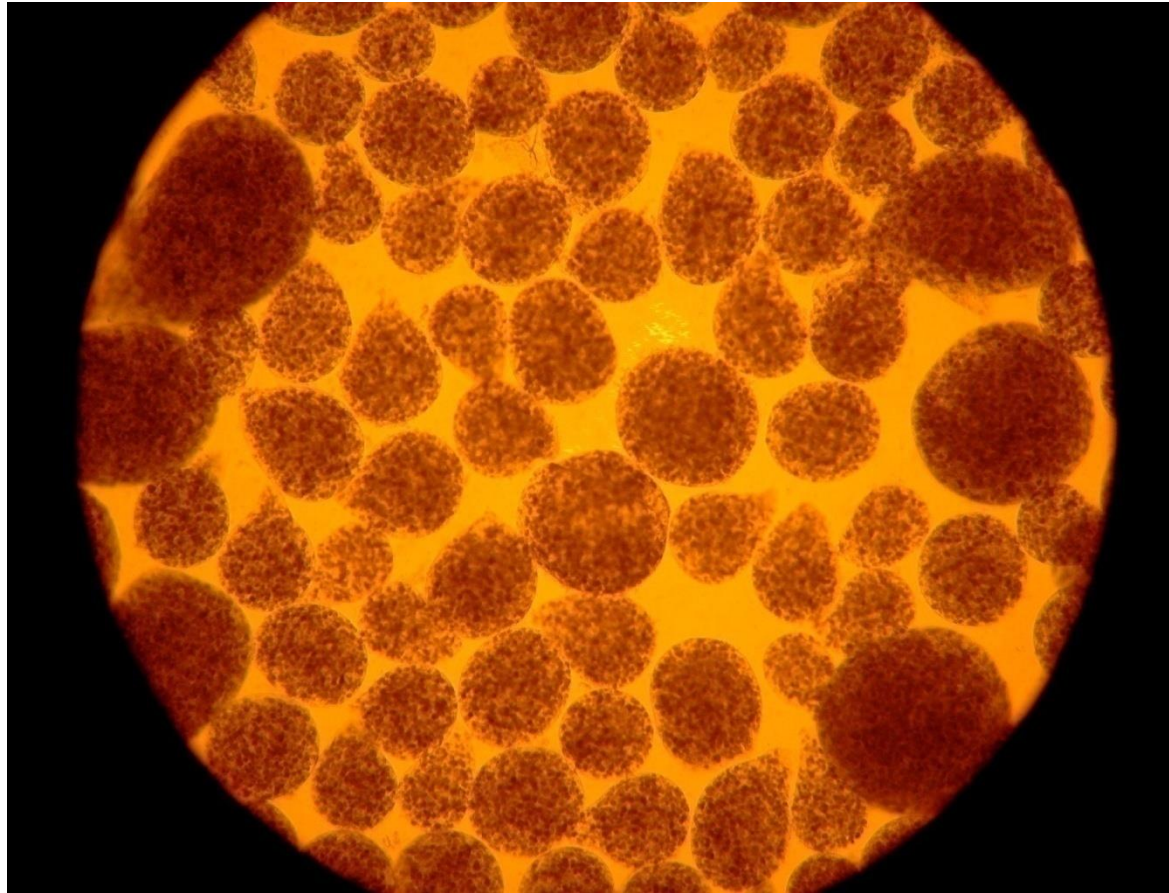
Calcium Alginate  
Poly-Ethylene Glycol (PEG)



Microsphere (600um diameter)



# Encapsulated Porcine Hepatocytes



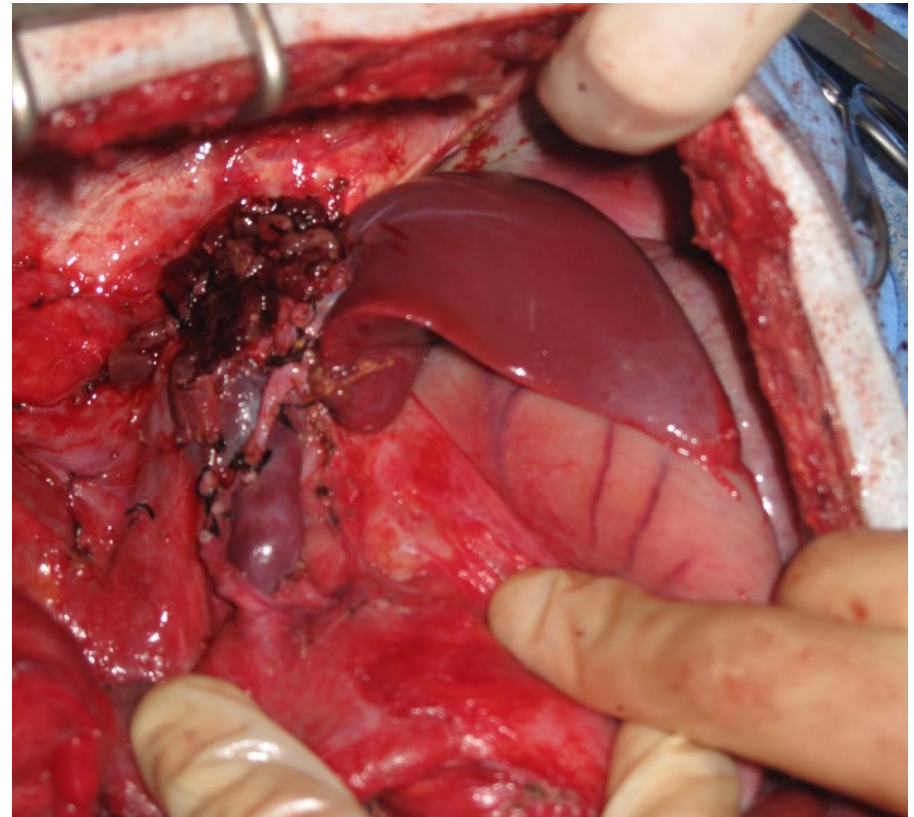
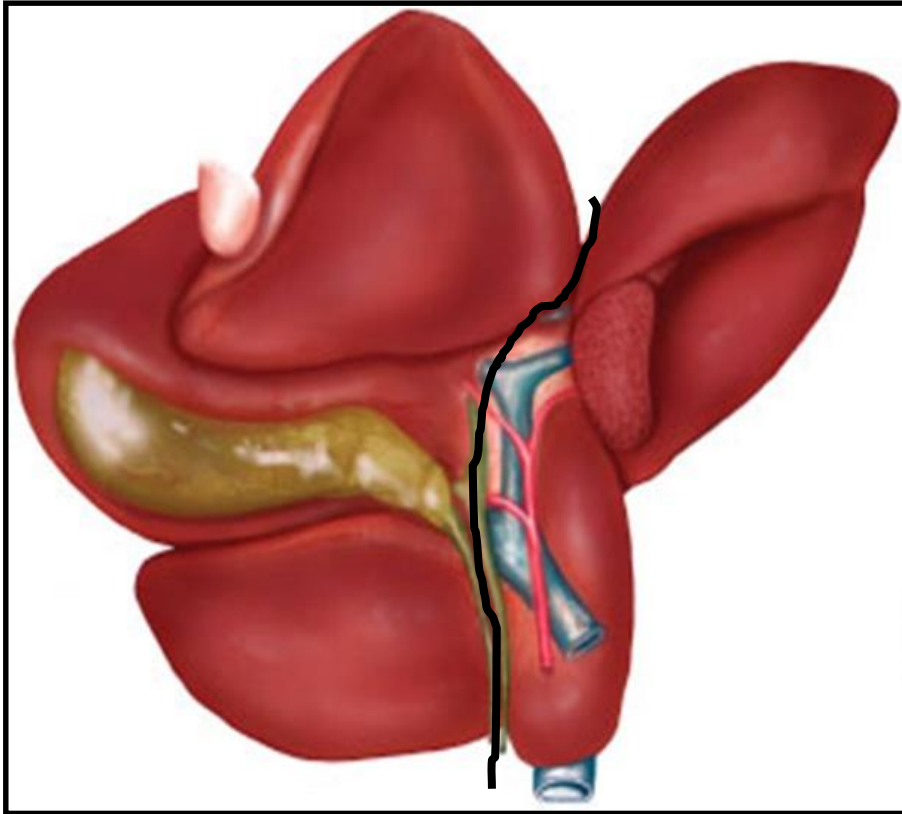
**At day 1 in culture (10x)**

*Mai G. et al. Xenotransplantation 2005*

*Mei J. et al. Cell Transplant 2009*

*Sgroi A. et al. Cell Transplant 2011*

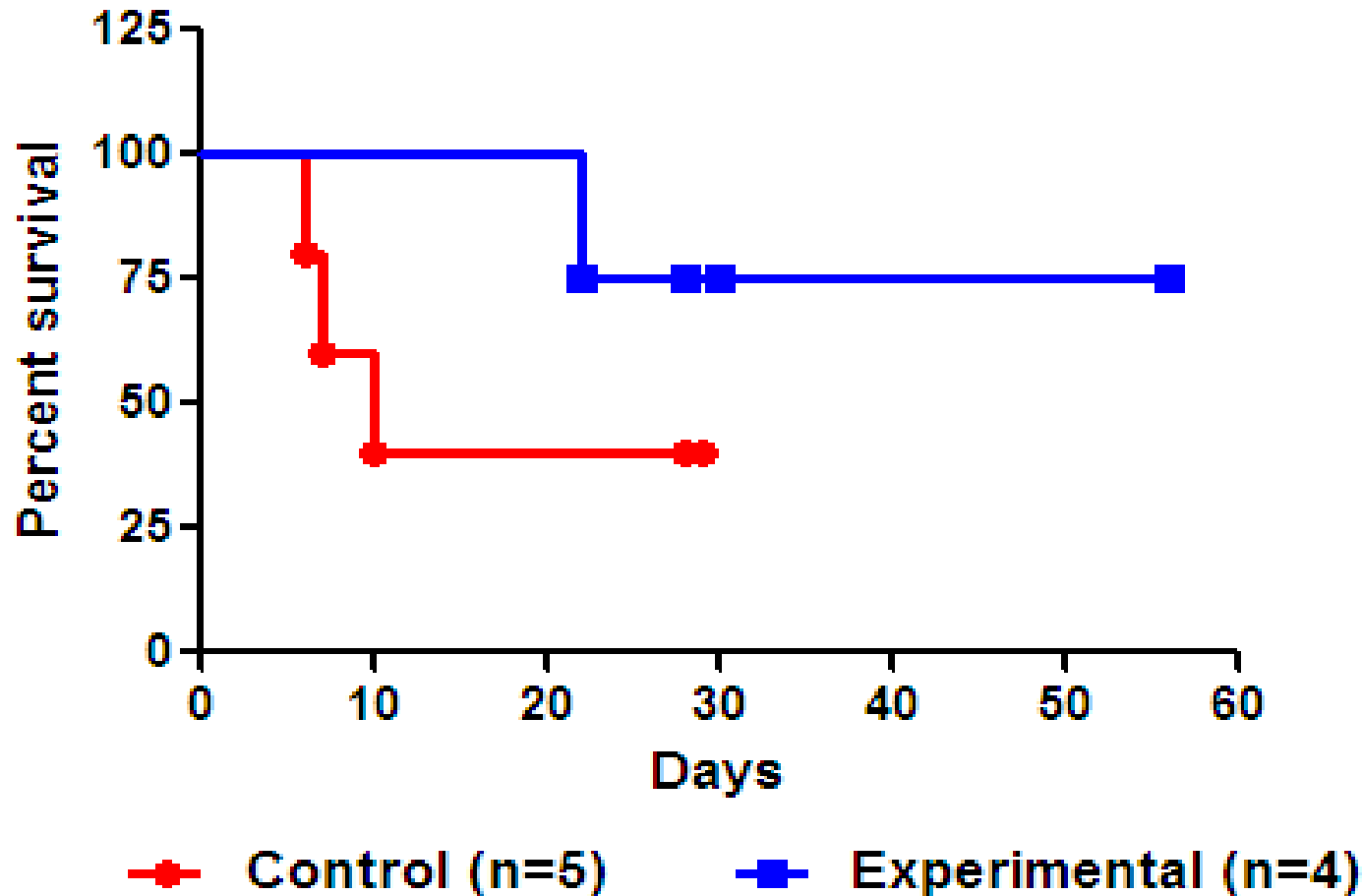
# Establishment of Acute Liver Failure Model in Baboons



**75% Hepatectomy +/- Warm ischemia**

***Machaidze Z. et al, Xenotransplantation 2017***

# Encapsulated porcine hepatocytes rescue acute liver failure in baboons





Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



## **Phase 1-2 safety-efficacy, single center trials**

- **Encapsulated porcine hepatocytes  
for acute liver failure without offer of standard liver  
transplantation**
- **Encapsulated porcine islets  
for type 1 diabetes patients sensitized, overweight**

**Road Map to clinical application**

## **Conclusions**

- **Protocols for organ and cell xenotransplantation are in preparation for clinical application**
- **Selected patients will be considered**
  - **Kidney failure**
  - **Heart failure**
  - **acute liver failure**
  - **type I diabetes**
- **Safety will be monitored in collaboration with Swissmedic, IXA, WHO**





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