Islet transplantation for the treatment of type 1 diabetes

Institute of Health Economics

Record Status
This is a bibliographic record of a published health technology assessment from a member of INAHTA. No evaluation of the quality of this assessment has been made for the HTA database.

Citation

Authors’ conclusions
The definition of success for islet transplantation remains controversial. Insulin independence may not be an appropriate clinical outcome for islet transplantation. Islet transplantation should aim at reducing the doses of required insulin therapy and the frequency of severe hypoglycemia events; these outcomes would improve patients’ quality of life and would improve glycemic control to prevent long-term diabetic complications. Islet transplantation is a complex procedure that has undergone continuous evolution over the past decade. It offers an alternative treatment option for a small group of patients with severe hypoglycemia, hypoglycemia unawareness, and brittle diabetes, who have failed to respond to standard treatment and management. Its safety and efficacy/effectiveness in these highly select patients has been extensively investigated. The role of islet transplantation in the long-term treatment of T1DM has yet to be determined because of the potential risk of immunosuppression-related side effects, the absence of sustained long-term treatment effects, and the insufficient supply of donor pancreata.

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