

CARDIAC SURGERY

Cardiac Transplantation

The guidelines for cardiac transplantation are well established, have been widely circulated (National Heart foundation of New Zealand technical report No. 57) and are similar to international recommendations.

Prerequisites for cardiac transplantation:

- Terminal heart disease with estimated life expectancy of less than 12 months
- Age <60 years
- Normal or reversible renal and hepatic function
- Absence of active infection
- Absence of pulmonary infarction in the preceding 8 weeks
- Absence of insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (relevant contraindication)
- Psychosocial stability and supportive social environment

Contraindications to cardiac transplantation:

- A fixed pulmonary vascular resistance in excess of 5 Woods units
- Cross match incompatibility between recipient and donor
- Significant peripheral vascular or cerebrovascular disease
- Active peptic ulceration
- Drug addiction or abuse
- Alcoholic cardiomyopathy and/or continued alcohol abuse
- Coexisting systemic illness that may limit life expectancy
- Pre-existing malignant disease
- Chronic suppurative lung disease, moderate to severe chronic obstructive lung disease