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# Saving those who can't wait

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**For the terminally ill, waiting for a suitable organ for a life-saving transplant may take time. In this issue of the *ERJ*, the results of the French system for prioritising the urgently ill are reported, and this commentary compares it with other systems.** <http://bit.ly/2Zw0laX>

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Lung transplantation is a remarkable accomplishment. It may be the only life-saving treatment option for patients with terminal lung disease, but while some patients may experience a slow progression, others may develop a sudden acceleration and rapid deterioration. The ideal time for the transplantation is therefore not easy to determine. In addition, for a transplant to be possible, the death of another human being is necessary, and the timing of this is inherently unpredictable. Thus, a peculiarity of lung transplantation is that the patients in need are known before the actual treatment is available and it is necessary to create a waiting list.