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Title: Recurrence of sarcoid granulomas in lung transplant recipients is common and does not affect overall survival

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Body: Background Sarcoidosis represent 2.5% of all indications for lung transplantation. Recurrence of granuloma has earlier been proved to derive from recipient immune cells, but its role in relation to lung function and overall survival after lung transplantation remains uncertain. Objective To identify patients with re-occurrence of granuloma in transplanted lungs, and compare these patients with other patients transplanted for sarcoidosis without re-occurring granulomas. We compared these patients on survival and lung function Design A total of 620 patients were transplanted in Copenhagen from 1992 until august 2012. This study comprised all patients (n=25) transplanted due to end-stage pulmonary sarcoidosis. We reviewed all lung functions and trans-bronchial biopsies and lung functions until today. Granuloma was defined as formation of epitheloid giant cells without presence of infection. Results A total of 7 (28%) patients had re-occurrence of granuloma and 18 (72%) did not. Recurrent granuloma were persistent in 9/17 biopsies (53%) after first definite finding. There was no difference in best obtained FEV₁ (P=0,458), and last FEV₁ recorded (P=0,389). There was no difference in survival (Log Rank test P=0,399).

Conclusions Approximately 30% of lung transplant recipients due to endstage sarcoidosis have recurrence of sarcoid granulomas. Recurrence of granulomas does not affect overall survival or lung function.