

# Donor-derived cell-free DNA: Has the answer been there all along?

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CUTTING EDGE of **TRANSPLANTATION**

**TRANSPLANT SUMMIT** 2019

***NO SIZE FITS ALL:** Uncovering the  
Potential of Personalized Transplantation*

## Disclosure

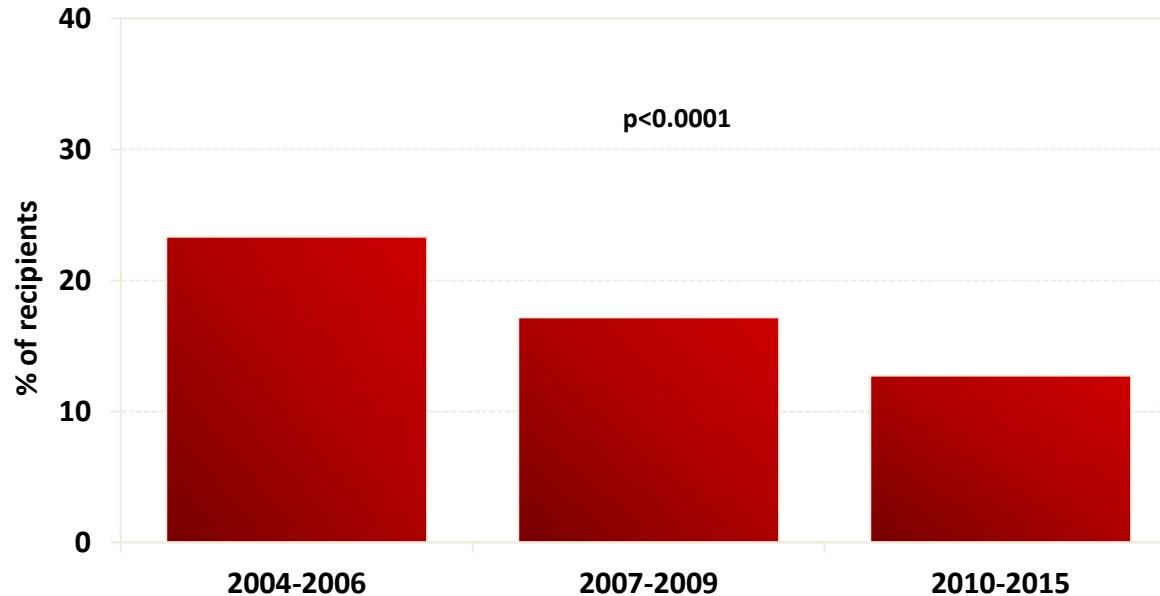
**CareDx, Inc:** scientific advisor, speakers' bureau, research grant recipient, steering committee

## Learning Objectives

- To appreciate the need for non-invasive biomarkers for surveillance of graft health
- To understand the principles of cell-free DNA testing
- To review major studies to-date of donor-derived cell free DNA testing for acute rejection monitoring after heart transplantation
  - Stanford shotgun sequencing (GTD- Genome Transplant Dynamics)
  - Targeted sequencing
    - AlloSure<sup>®</sup>
    - myTAI<sub>HEART</sub>
  - One genome method

# Need for acute rejection surveillance

Adult Heart Transplants  
% of Recipients Experiencing **Treated Rejection** Between Transplant Discharge  
and 1-Year Follow-Up by Era

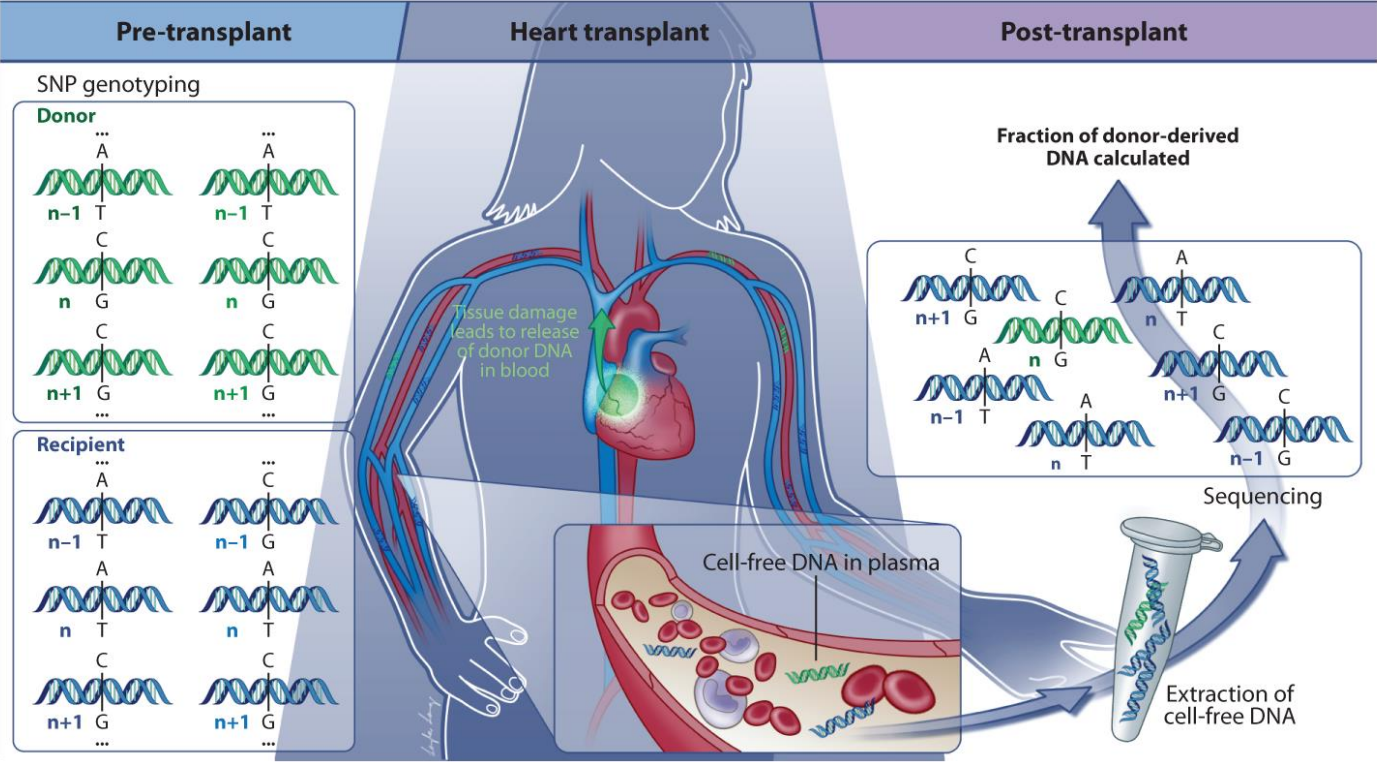


Treated rejection = Recipient was reported to (1) have at least one acute rejection episode that was treated with an anti-rejection agent; or (2) have been hospitalized for rejection.

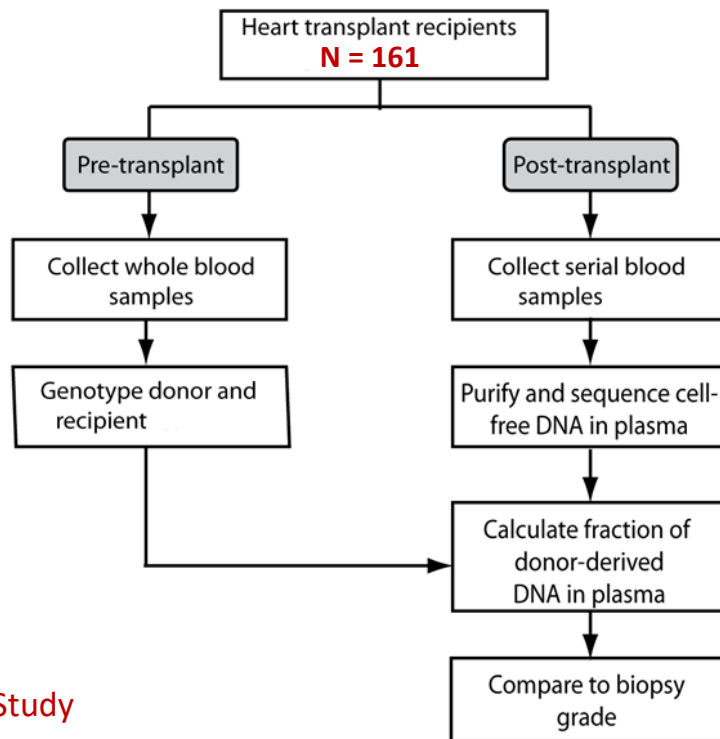
# Non-Invasive Markers of Rejection

- Electrocardiogram
  - Surface
  - Intramyocardial
- Cardiac Imaging
  - Echocardiography
  - Magnetic Resonance Imaging
  - Nuclear Imaging
- Biomarkers
  - B-type Natriuretic Peptide (BNP)
  - Troponin (TnI, TnT)
  - High-sensitivity CRP
- Genomic Markers
  - Gene Expression Profiling
  - Cell-free DNA
  - mRNA/miRNA
  - Proteomics

# Cell-Free DNA: a promising post-transplant biomarker

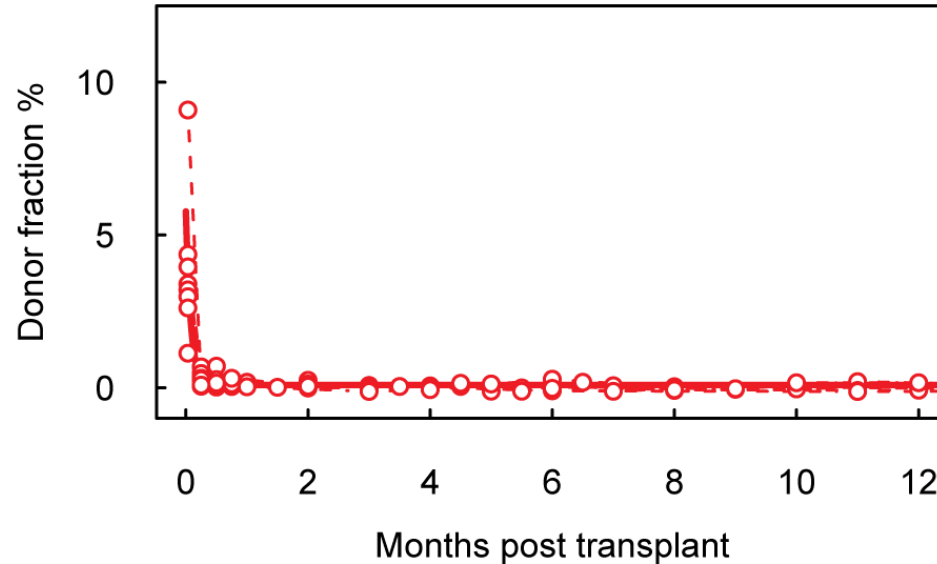


# cfDNA prospective study design



Genome Transplant Dynamics Study  
NIH 1RC4AI092673

## dd-cfDNA signal in absence of rejection

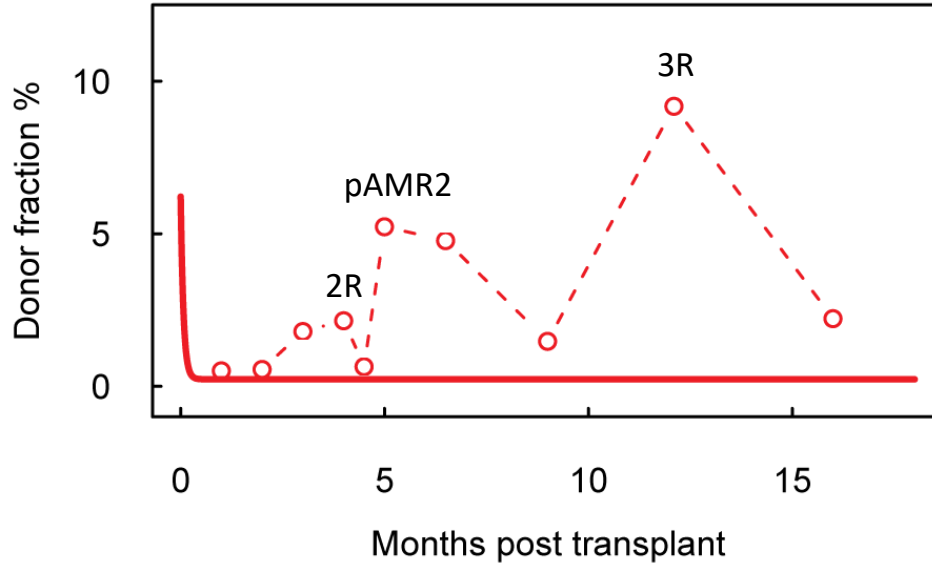


Elevated signal immediately post transplant followed by a quick decay (2.4 days) to a low baseline level

De Vlamincx, Sci Trans Med, 2014



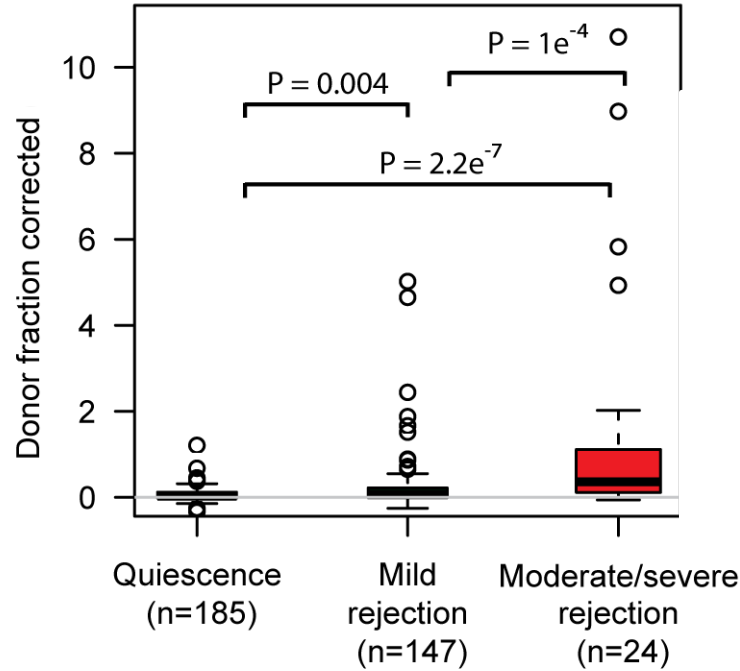
## dd-cfDNA signal at time of acute rejection



**Elevated donor DNA at time of rejection**

De Vlamincx, Sci Trans Med, 2014

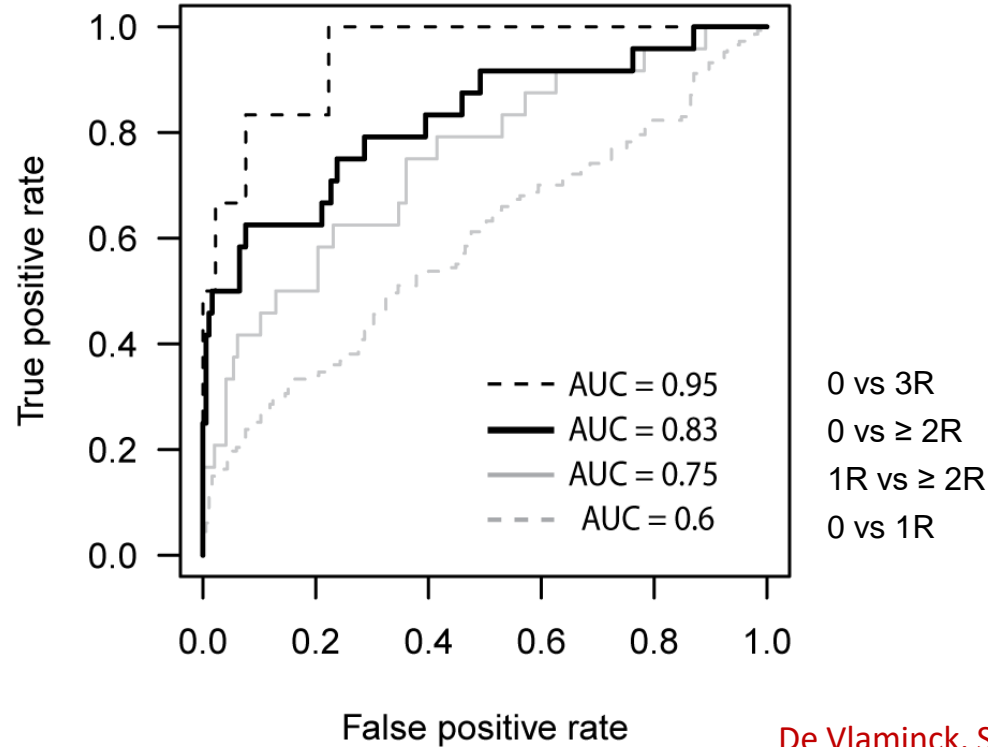
## Comparison of dd-cfDNA levels: no rejection vs rejection



**Significant increase in fraction of donor-derived DNA at rejection**

De Vlamincx, Sci Trans Med, 2014

## Test performance: Detection of acute rejection



De Vlamincx, Sci Trans Med, 2014

# dd-cfDNA: A Rapidly Evolving Technology

- Technology used in previous studies to measure SNP alleles:
  - Shotgun sequencing methods (Stanford) (1)
  - Targeted amplification (Wisconsin) (2)
  - Both requiring recipient AND donor genotypes
- New approaches (AlloSure, myTAI<sub>HEART</sub>, one genome method) have been developed to discriminate donor from recipient after sequencing cfDNA from a recipient blood sample only (3, 4)

(1) Snyder et al., PNAS, 2011

De Vlaminck et al., Sci Transl Med, 2014

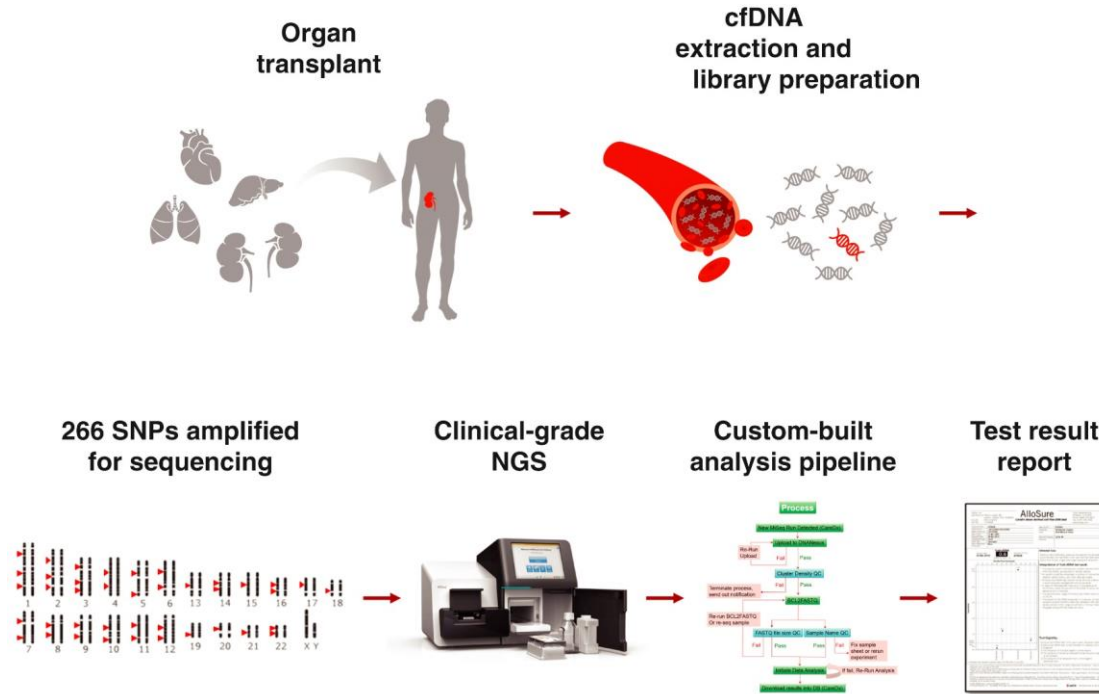
(2) Beck et al., Clin Chem, 2013

Hidestrand et al., JACC, 2014

(3) Sharon E et al. PLoS Comput Biol, 2017

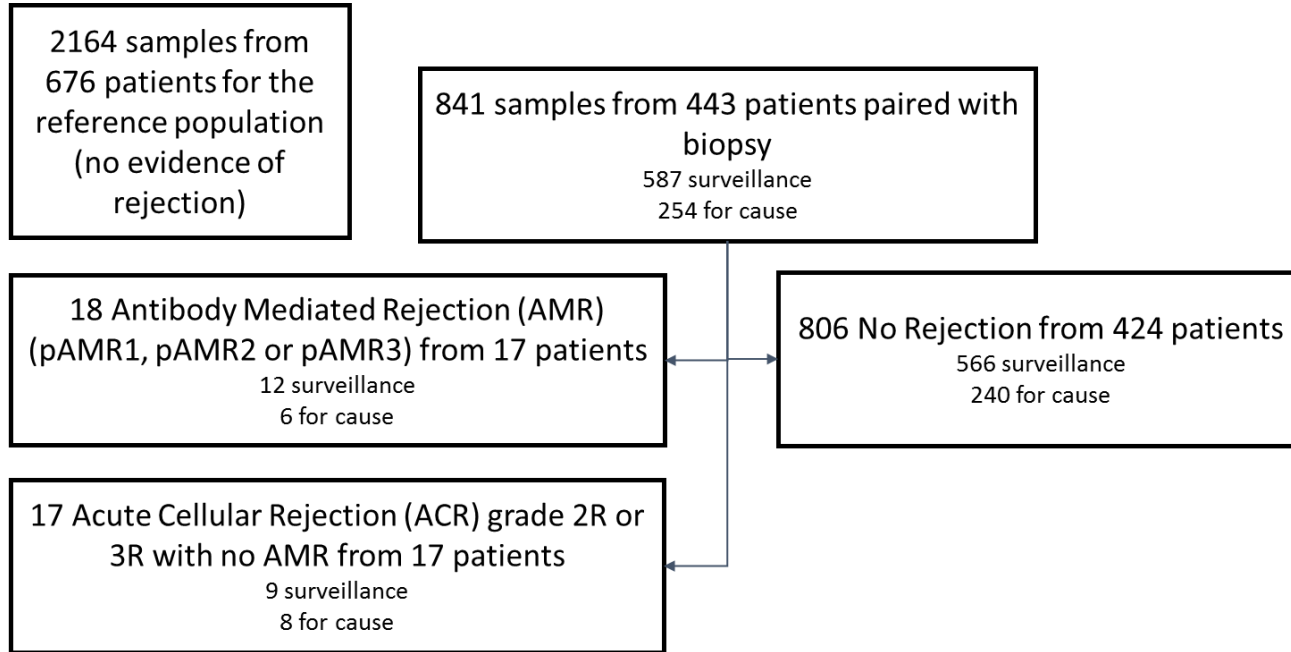
(4) Grskovic et al, J Mol Diagnostics, 2016

# AlloSure® dd-cfDNA assay



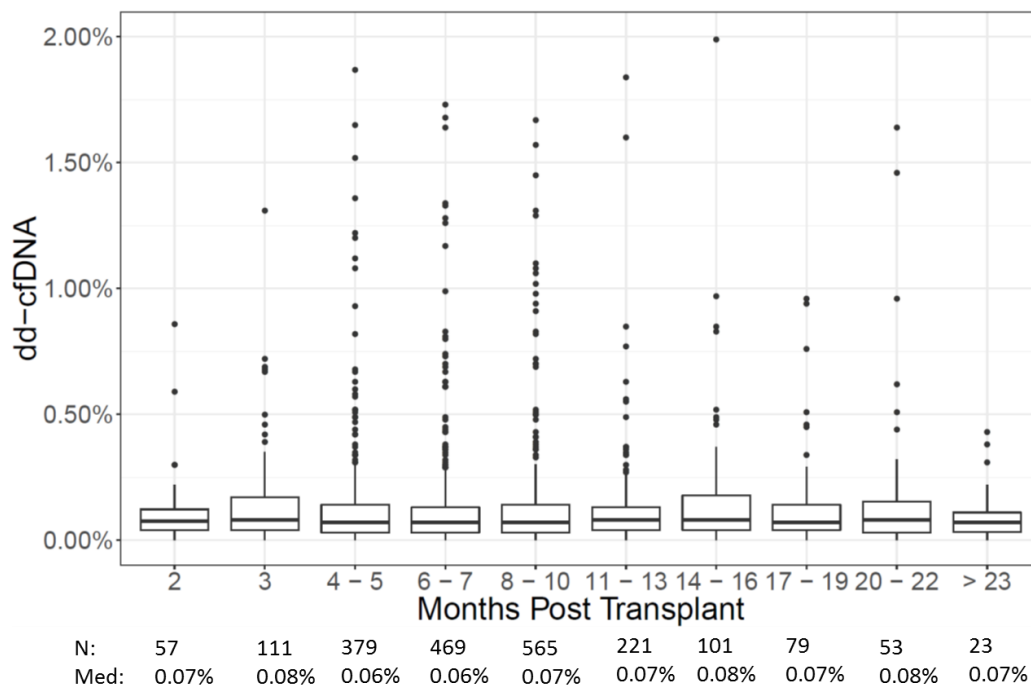
Grskovic, M. *J Molecular Diagnostics*, 2016

# Prospective AlloSure® study in heart transplantation: D-OAR Registry



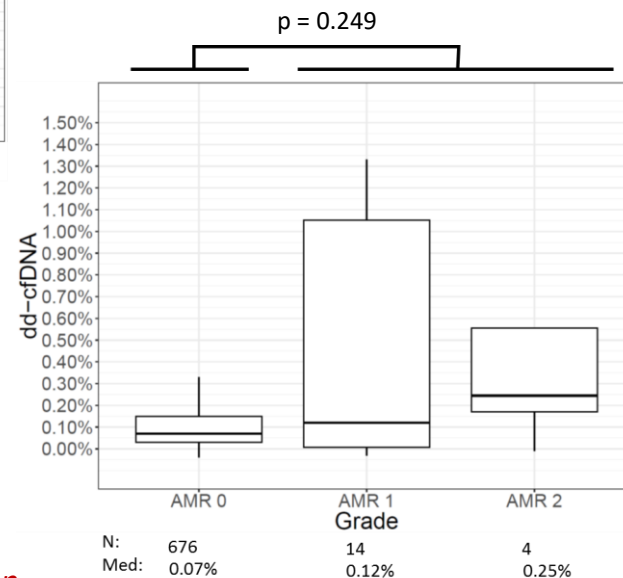
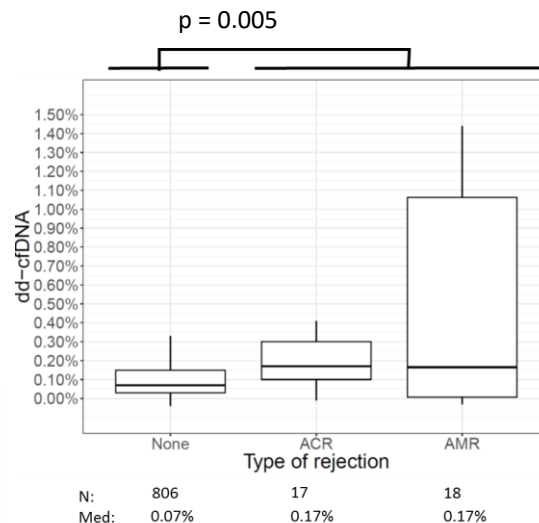
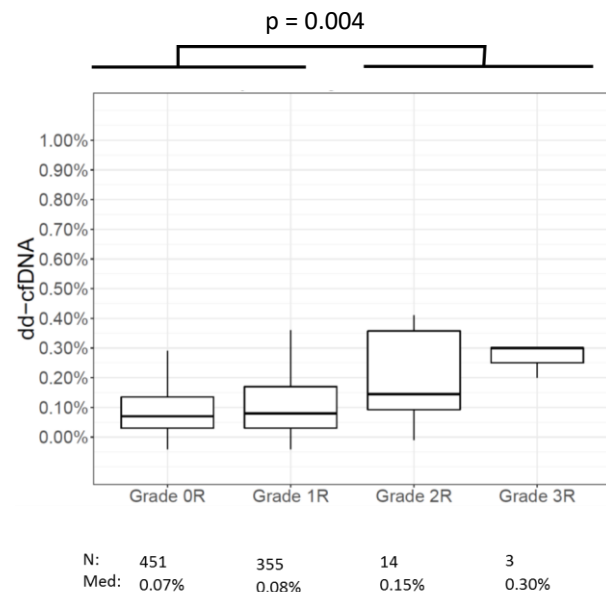
*Khush K, submitted for publication*

## D-OAR Study: dd-cfDNA levels post-transplant (no rejection)



Khush K, submitted for publication

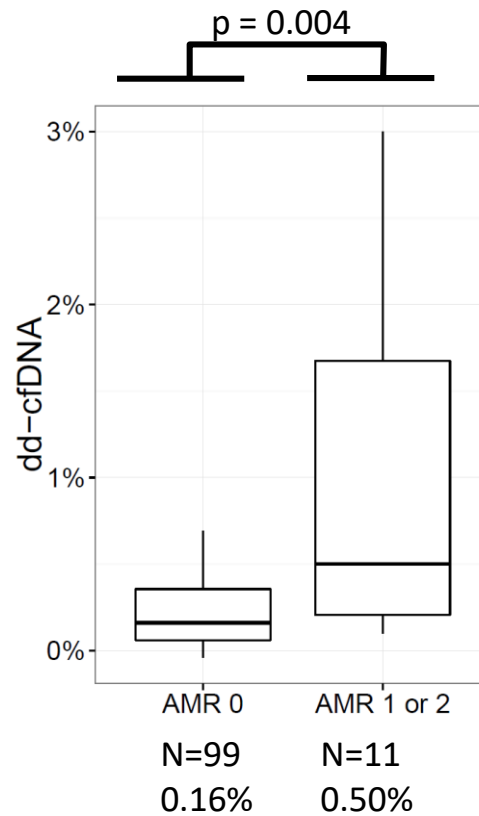
# D-OAR Study Results



Khush K, submitted for publication



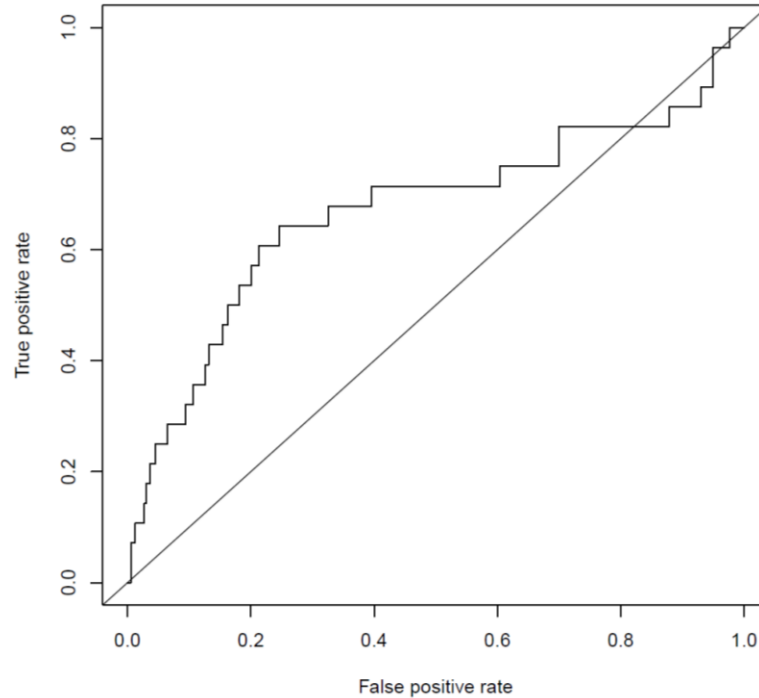
## D-OAR Study Results: Cedars Sinai cohort



33 patients, 110 samples

*Khush K, submitted for publication*

# AlloSure test performance



Threshold 0.2%

AUC 0.64

Sensitivity 44%

Specificity 80%

PPV 9%

NPV 97%

*Khush K, submitted for publication*

# Now Offering... myTAI<sub>HEART</sub><sup>™</sup>

- First non-invasive, cell-free DNA based test for increased risk of moderate or higher acute cellular rejection in heart transplant patients
- Rapid, cost-effective, clinically validated laboratory developed test
- Can be used in patients as young as **2 months of age** and as early as **7 days post-transplant**
- Results available next business day after receipt
- CLIA Certified / CAP Accredited



- Targeted sequencing “relies on selected highly-informative genomic regions” [Digital Analysis of Selected Regions (DANSR)]
- **Method 1:** donor and recipient genotyped
- **Method 2:** recipient genotyping only
- 88 pediatric heart transplant patients, mean age 13 years (0.1-30 years)
- 158 blood samples paired with biopsy

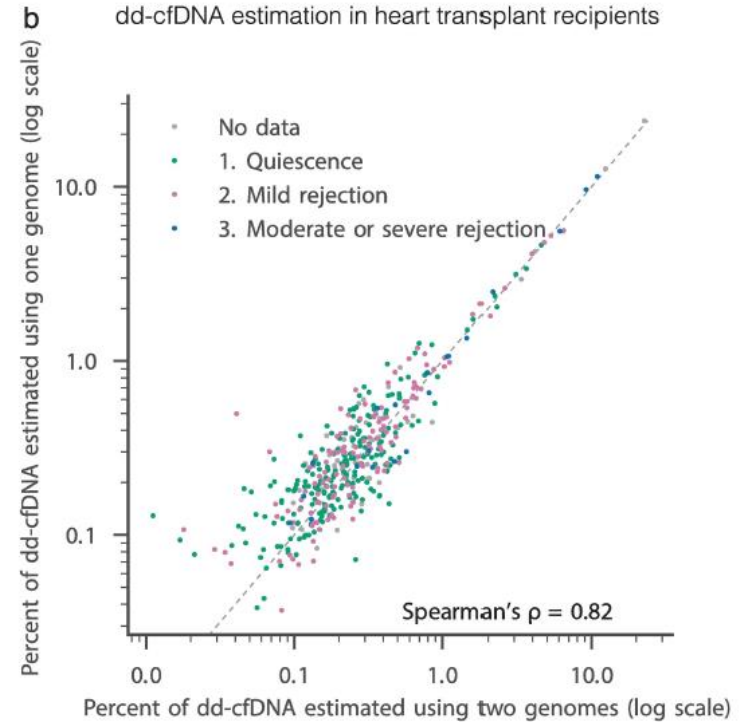
Hidestrand M, et al. JACC, 2014  
Ragalie W, et al. JACC, 2018

Biopsy Grade	N	% dd-cfDNA (threshold 0.2%)	
		Method 1	Method 2
0R	134	0.11%	0.25%
1R	21	0.37%	0.89%
2R	3	0.97%	1.22%
3R	0	-	-

Method	Comparison	P-value	AUC
1	0R vs 1R/2R	0.02	0.78
2	0R vs 1R/2R	<0.001	0.84

## “One genome” method

- Shotgun sequencing of total cfDNA
- Computational approach to estimate dd-cfDNA levels in the absence of a donor genotype



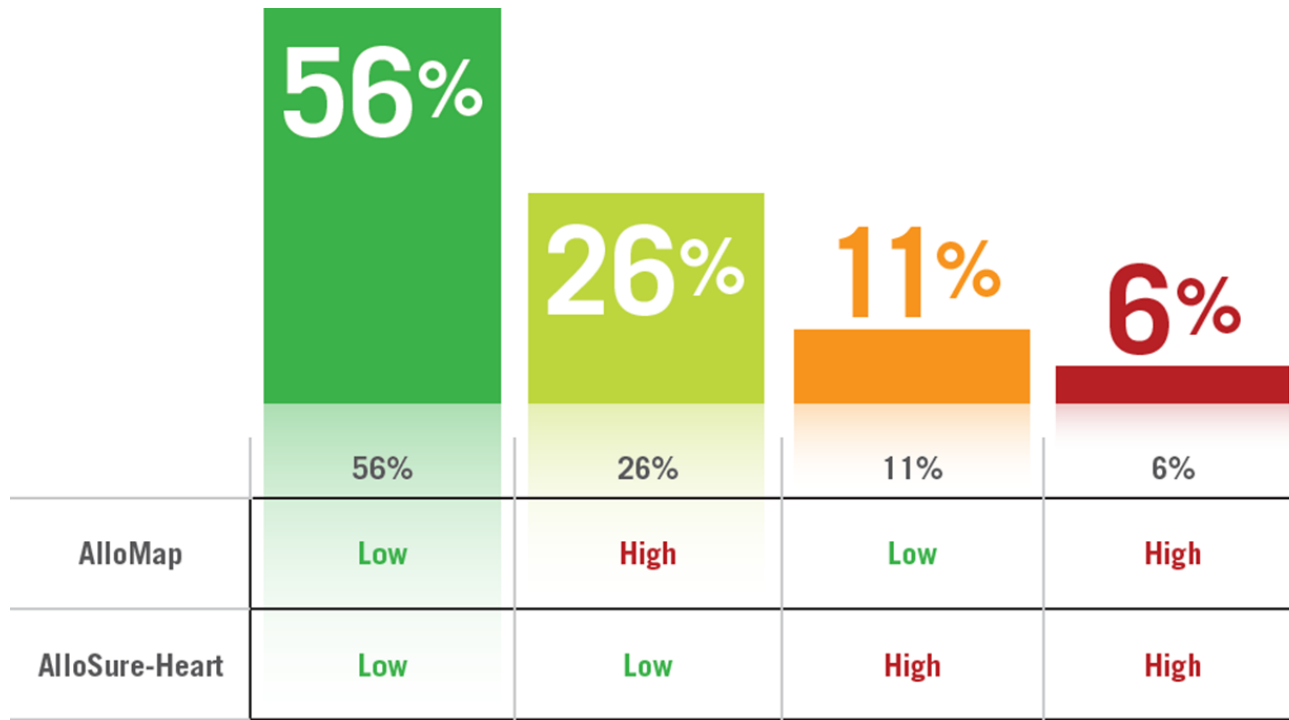
Sharon E, et al. PLOS Computational Biology, 2017

# SHORE Study: Surveillance HeartCare Outcomes Registry



- HeartCare = AlloMap + AlloSure
- Hypothesis:
  - **AlloMap** (gene expression test) detects immune activation and is clinically validated for ACR monitoring
  - **AlloSure** (cfDNA assay) detects graft injury and is validated for ACR and AMR monitoring
  - Perhaps a COMBINED **AlloMap + AlloSure** monitoring approach will be better than either test alone

## SHORE Study: Surveillance HeartCare Outcomes Registry





## SHORE study design

- 5 year study
- 35 sites in US
- 1,600 patients
- **Primary objective:** To assess the clinical utility of surveillance using HeartCare testing, in association with the clinical care of heart transplant recipients
- **Endpoints:** deaths, number of biopsies, number of rejection events, measures of graft function

# Heart Allograft Routine Testing Schedule (HARTS)

A blood test can be administered more frequently and conveniently than an invasive procedure, providing for more continuous rejection surveillance.

**monthly**

First 1 – 12 months

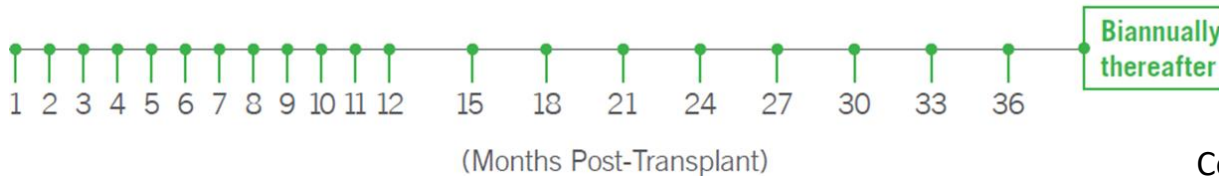
**quarterly**

2nd – 3rd Year

**biannually**

4th – 5th Year +

## HARTS TIMELINE



Courtesy of CareDx, Inc.

## Conclusions: dd-cfDNA for heart transplant monitoring

- We have come a long way in the quest for non-invasive ways to assess graft health after transplant
- Fewer biopsies are being performed than ever before
- Fewer procedural complications, more satisfied patients
- AlloSure has been tested in prospective registry study (D-OAR)
  - Detects both ACR and AMR at a threshold of 0.2%
- Upcoming SHORE study (CareDx): Combined AlloMap + AlloSure for heart transplant monitoring
- MyTAI<sub>HEART</sub> is available for use (pediatric patients)
- “One genome method” is being studied for clinical use



THANK YOU