

Subject:	Intestinal transplant
Type of ruling:	Outcome of Assessment (<i>Standpunt</i>)
Care form:	Transplant of the small intestines for patients suffering from intestinal failure
Date:	October 2013
Summary:	<p>A transplant of the small intestines may be considered for patients who chronically absorb insufficient nutrients and fluids due to intestinal failure, and who have persistent problems with total parenteral nutrition (TPN).</p> <p>The indication for a transplant of the small intestines implies that no other treatment is possible for patients with intestinal failure and TPN problems. As a result, there are no studies comparing the efficacy of the operation with any other treatment. The treatment outcomes of a transplant have been described in prospectively recorded patient registries and retrospective patient series. These outcomes have been published and can be compared with the expected natural course: the life expectancy of patients with intestinal failure who are incapable of receiving further nutrition is extremely short.</p> <p>The published data shows that a transplant of the small intestines results in an 80% 1-year survival rate, a 70% 3-year survival rate and a 60% 5-year survival rate. Surviving patients can eat and drink normally again. Their quality of life is better than before the operation, though not as good as that of healthy persons. Severe complications are: sepsis and multi-organ failure, often as a result of transplant rejection.</p> <p>The operation has been part of treatment for patients with intestinal failure for decades. Throughout the world more than 2500 transplants of the small intestines were carried out between 1985 and 2011, most of them in the US. To date, the operation has been performed 12 times in the Netherlands. This relatively low number is partly explained by the successful intestinal rehabilitation of neonates with intestinal failure due to intestinal resection.</p> <p>The National Health Care Institute concludes that intestinal transplants in patients with intestinal failure who have persistent TPN problems complies with established medical science and medical practice. This means the intervention is insured under the Health Insurance Act (<i>Zorgverzekeringswet, Zvw</i>).</p>

*The original text of this **Outcome of Assessment** of the National Health Care Institute was in Dutch. Although great care was taken in translating the text from Dutch to English, the translation may nevertheless have resulted in discrepancies. Rights may only be derived on the basis of the Dutch version of the National Health Care Institute's Outcome of Assessment.*

Furthermore, the National Health Care Institute points out that only the summary of this report was translated. A proper understanding of all relevant considerations and facts would require familiarity with the Dutch version of this report, including all appendices.