

# Clinical trials in cardiac xenotransplantation: are we ready to handle ethical issues?

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## Abstract

Heart allotransplantation has become one of the methods of choice in the treatment of severe heart failure. In the face of its difficulties, such as the unmet balance between organ supply and demand, the use of xenotransplantation might be an attractive option in the near future, even more with the ongoing progress achieved regarding the avoidance of hyperacute rejection and primary organ dysfunction, maintenance of xenograft function and control of xenograft growth. To make possible this translational challenge, some points must be taken into account indeed, and they are the equipoise of human benefit and animal suffering, the risk of unknown infections, a well prepared informed consent, ethical and religious beliefs, and the role of cardiac xenotransplantation in a ventricular assistance device era.

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