

PATIENT INTERVIEWS

Introduction about our team and an explanation about the iGEM competition.

Question 1: What is your experience using immune suppressants?

Question 2: Would you like to see a decrease of the amount of blood samples that needs to be drawn?

After this question, we explained that it is important that blood levels of immune suppressants remain constant. Currently, blood samples are taken every week or in intervals of up to three months, dependent on the amount of time that has passed since the transplantation. Our goal is to develop an easy method that enables patients to test their immune suppressants at home, at any given time. This would lead to a better follow-up, and would allow the doctors to react to unexpected changes in concentration that would otherwise remain undetected. This way, the risk of organ rejection will be reduced.

Question 3: In which way do you think this device could influence your quality of life?

In order to do these daily measurements, a small device would be placed under the skin, containing living, genetically modified cells that respond to the concentration in the blood.

Question 4: Would you be willing to undergo this procedure if this could lower your risk of rejection? What is your opinion about the device containing genetically modified cells?

Question 5: Would you be willing to participate in a clinical study to assess this device during a case in which you do not know if this could lower the risk of rejection?

Question 6: The device could alert you when you have not taken your drugs yet by sending out notifications. Do you think this could be a helpful reminder for you when you forget to take your medicine or be helpful for taking your medicine at the same time on a daily basis?