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DONOR-DERIVED UREAPLASMA IS A POTENTIALLY LETHAL INFECTION IN LUNG ALLOGRAFT RECIPIENTS

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Ureaplasma species are Mollicutes that are commensals of the urogenital tract. These organisms are dependent on urea hydrolysis for energy production which generates ammonia and carbon dioxide. We recently hypothesized that systemic infection with *Ureaplasma* species might pose a unique challenge to human ammonia metabolism by simultaneously disrupting hepatic clearance of ammonia through urea production and liberating free ammonia, resulting in the lethal hyperammonemia syndrome, which affects over 4% of lung transplant recipients ^{1,2}. When we assessed residual specimens of lung transplant recipients from multiple centers who succumbed to the hyperammonemia syndrome, we found that all patients had evidence of disseminated *Ureaplasma* infection and none without the syndrome had detectable *Ureaplasma* ¹. This series also included samples from a previously published case report from *The Lancet* in which *Mycoplasma hominis* was proposed to be the cause of hyperammonemia ³. All samples that we

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