



THE SURVIVAL RATE OF LUNG TRANSPLANT PATIENTS IN CROATIA

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Objective: Introduction: Nowadays, lung transplantation is accepted modality of treatment for well-selected patients suffering from terminal, non-malignant respiratory disease. Since firstly performed in 1963 lung transplantation became thoroughly established in last three decades with advances in surgical technique and immunosuppressant therapy. The aim of this study was to determine post-transplant survival rate and to give general overview of lung transplant patients in Croatia. Patients studied in this research were transplanted through the lung transplantation programme at Clinical Centre for Pulmonary Diseases Jordanovac, University Hospital Centre Zagreb.

Methods: The research is retrospective analysis of prospectively collected data on 71 patients from year 2001 until February 2019. Descriptive statistics were calculated and survival outcomes were analysed by the Kaplan-Meier method.

Results: Since the first transplantation in February 2001 to February 2019 all transplantations through lung transplantation programme in Croatia were performed in AKH Vienna. Total number of transplanted patients, was 71 (33 male (46,48%) and 38 female (53,52%)) with median of age 52. Survival rate after the 1st post-transplant year was 79,1% after 3rd year 69,8% and after 5th year 63,0% with mean survival rate of 78,96 months. Clinically

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significant graft rejection experienced 39,4% of patients after median time of 61,56 months. Bronchiolitis obliterans syndrome (BOS) was most common type of graft rejection observed in 58,62% of affected patients, whereas incidence of antibody-mediated rejection (AMR) and restrictive allograft syndrome (RAS) was 20,69% respectively.

Conclusion: Survival rate of lung transplant patient in Croatia is comparable to other European countries according to the 35th annual report of the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) in 2018. Analysing such a type of data is crucial in addressing possible improvement measures and broadening general knowledge in the field. In the aim to improve patient outcomes excellent teamwork among all involved specialists and strict patient follow-up are of utmost importance.