

The Survival Rate of Lung Transplant Patients in Croatia

Tomislav Šklebar ^a, Mateja Janković Makek^{ab}, Goran Glodić ^b, Gordana Pavliša^{ab}, Ana Hećimović^b, Feđa Džubur^{ab}, Miroslav Samaržija^{ab}

^aUniversity of Zagreb, School of Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia

^bUniversity Hospital Center Zagreb, Department for Respiratory Diseases Jordanovac, Zagreb, Croatia

Key words: lung transplantation, survival rate, graft rejection

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVE Nowadays, lung transplantation is accepted modality of treatment for well-selected patients suffering from terminal, non-malignant respiratory disease. 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. The time on the waiting list increased from median of 61,5 days (in years 2010-2015) to 138,5 days (in years 2015-2018). Clinically significant graft rejection experienced 39,4% of patients after median time of 61,56 months.

CONCLUSION Survival rate of lung transplanted patient in Croatia is comparable to other European countries. 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.