

Heart transplantation results from the Department of Cardiology at Dubrava University Hospital

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Heart transplantation (HTx) remains the gold standard and treatment of choice for advanced heart failure refractory to other methods^{1,2}. In this study we report a single center experience and outcomes of patients referred to HTx by the Department of Cardiology, University Hospital Dubrava (UHD). All patients underwent HTx at the Department of Cardiac and Transplantation Surgery UHD, and were subsequently referred for follow up in close collaboration of two departments. We retrospectively examined the outcomes from 108 HTx recipients between 1995 and October 2020. The mean recipient age was 52.9 years, and 83.3% were male. Dilated cardiomyopathy was present in 56%, ischemic in 37% and 7% were other causes. 26 recipients (24.1%) were placed either on high urgent list of Eurotransplant or on national high urgent list. Survival was studied using Kaplan-Meier curves. Early in-hospital mortality was 10.2%. The global survival rates at 1, 5, and 10 years are 85.2%, 77.5% and 62.0% respectively. The mean survival is 141.5 months (95% CI, 117.2-165.1). Including patients referred from other centers, there have been 208 HTx in UHD in total since 1995. Annual HTx number peaked in 2019 when 21 HTx were performed, while in 2020 due to the COVID-19 lockdown only 12 HTx have been done so far. Three HTx recipients have been diagnosed with COVID-19 by now, two of which required hospitalization and high flow oxygen therapy, but all eventually recovered. Post-HTx survival rates at 1, 5, and 10 years remain high in UHD, while the program is currently facing challenges due to COVID-19 pandemic.

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LITERATURE

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