22 years of heart transplantation; a single-center experience

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OBJECTIVES: Despite great advances in medical treatment and in development of mechanical circulatory support (MCS) heart transplantation (HTx) remains the golden standard for end-stage heart failure. We aim to report the single center 22 years experience and outcomes of patients whom underwent HTx.

METHODS: We retrospectively examined the outcomes of 151 HTx recipients between September 1995 and April 2017. The mean recipient age was 53±8 years, and 86% were male. Dilated cardiomyopathy was present in 55%, ischemic in 32% and 13% were other causes. Seventeen patients from our cohort were on high urgent list of Eurotransplant. Survival was studied using Kaplan-Meier curves.

RESULTS: In-hospital mortality was 16%. The median follow-up was 23 months. The global survival rates at 1, 5, and 10 years were 80%, 75%, and 61% respectively. The mean survival is 105 months (95% CI, 93.4-118.3). Early main causes of death were sepsis (41%) and primary graft failure (29%) and late causes were late rejection (20%), malignant disease and other causes (10%).

CONCLUSION. In our center, post-HTx survival rates at 1, 5, and 10 years were comparable to those reported by the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation as a result of combined effort of all medical personnel involved in perioperative and postoperative management.