



Transplantation directorate

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Budapest, 26 March 2020

Dr. Serge Vogelaar

Medical director

EUROTRANSPLANT International Foundation

Haagse Schouwweg 6

2332 KG Leiden, the Netherlands

Subject: Hungarian preventive measures regarding international organ exchanges with Eurotransplant due to ongoing pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Dear Dr Vogelaar,

The recent situation regarding COVID-19 affects organ donation. All Eurotransplant countries have implemented preventive screenings policies for potential organ donors and further preventive measures are required to be introduced and continuously updated.

The Transplantation Section of the Hungarian Medical College, the Hungarian Transplant Society, the heads of all 7 Hungarian organ transplantation centres and the Hungarian National Blood Transfusion Service as national competent authority and Eurotransplant contracting partner had online meeting today about organ donation and transplantation in the context of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Hereby, I officially inform you about the decisions and requests that were made during the meeting mentioned before.

1. We implemented and update the national standard operating procedure for organ donation and transplantation regarding COVID-19.
2. The national organ donation program from deceased donors works in Hungary.
3. Hungary offers organs to Eurotransplant from deceased donors.
4. Organ transplantation activity in Hungary has decreased, only lifesaving, urgent transplants are performed after cautious case-by-case decisions.
5. We cannot accept foreign procurement teams to enter Hungary and Hungarian hospitals due to governmental and medical preventive measures (closed borders, intention to minimize the risk of transmission of the novel infection).
6. Hungarian health care professionals cannot leave the country due to Government decision. In case of return from abroad, health care professionals must have mandatory two-week quarantine and out-of-work when they are needed much more than ever before.
7. With regard to points 5 and 6, Hungarian heart procurement and transplant centres (HBSHE in HBSTP and HBGHE in HBGTP) offer their availability and service to procure donor heart from Hungarian deceased if the heart is allocated to abroad and if the

transplant centre occasionally accept this opportunity after direct contact between centres. The Hungarian Organ Coordination Office will organize and provide service for the contact.

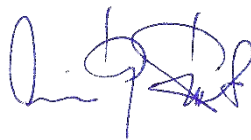
8. With regard to points 5 and 6, Hungarian heart transplant centres declared to may accept donor heart procured abroad by local team from foreign deceased if the heart is allocated to Hungarian patient and if the transplant centre occasionally accept this opportunity after direct contact between centres. The Hungarian Organ Coordination Office will organize and provide service for the contact.
9. Transport of donor hearts requires precise and careful organization for which the HNBTS Organ Coordination Office is fully prepared and competent.

Taking into account the current preventive and restrictive measures, it is still possible to continue the international donor heart exchange among Eurotransplant member states for better match and safe of the patients in urgent need.

I kindly ask Eurotransplant to accept our decisions and implement these feasible actions as listed above, and please inform all the other 7 Member States about that.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Best regards,



Dr. Sándor Mihály
Director of transplantation

