



Dear colleagues,

In this spring issue of the newsletter we have a short look back on the extra mural meeting in Cologne earlier this year. We also discuss the requirement for HLA typing to be reported at the serological split antigen level, both in EPT and in daily practice. From this summer, the ETRL will start making an inventory of the positive crossmatches in donor centers. To this aim, an application has been developed to obtain all essential information, as discussed in this newsletter.

Report extra mural Meeting

On the 23rd of February we had a very interesting extra mural meeting in Cologne, Germany. Subjects on the agenda were the EPT program, patient-based cases, news from the TTAC, and the use of CDC vs Luminex Single Antigen Beads for HLA antibody detection. These subjects were vividly discussed. The day was concluded by a very interesting lecture from Dr. Wolfgang Arns on HLA antibodies from a clinical perspective. A more detailed summary, as well as the presentations can be found on the ETRL website. Next year, the extra mural meeting will be hosted by the tissue typing center from Groningen, the Netherlands.



HLA split typing reported in Eurotransplant

HLA typing for both donors and recipients within Eurotransplant need to be reported at the serological split antigen level (except for HLA-B14), as described in chapter 10 of the Eurotransplant Manual.

A recent analysis from the ETRL shows that HLA typing on the split antigen level for both donors and recipients is improving. However, some antigens are lagging behind (HLA-B15, -B40, -Cw3, -DQ3), but need to be reported at the split antigen level for optimal allocation. Since this is especially important for patients in the AM program, full HLA split typing is now a requirement for entering the AM program. Furthermore, until now it has been possible to enter Cw3 and DQ3 as a result in the typing EPT application. From 1st of January 2019 it will only be possible to enter split level typing for these antigens (Cw9 and Cw10, or DQ7, DQ8 and DQ9).

Sample selection of Eurotransplant EPT for ET affiliated centers

Please note that the Eurotransplant Manual states that EPT testing must be done without selection of samples by the Eurotransplant affiliated centers. This is different from the EFI standards. From the EPT year 2018, the EPT rules are adapted accordingly. EPT analysis will take into account that all samples must be tested. Samples not tested (unauthorized samples on the EPT website) will be regarded a discrepancy. In case of problems with EPT samples, please contact the ETRL.

Positive donor center crossmatch inventory

As announced during the last extra mural meeting, an application has been developed to make an inventory of the positive crossmatches reported by the donor centers. In order to introduce virtual crossmatching in Eurotransplant, positive donor center crossmatches should be something of the past. To make a proper inventory, recipient centers will be asked to comment why these crossmatches were likely assigned positive.

From June 1st 2018, you may receive emails asking to comment on positive donor center crossmatches for patients from your center.

New form for sera sent to the ETRL

A new form is available to enter all relevant information on sera sent to the ETRL. Please make sure that all sera from AM patients are accompanied by this form. The form can be found here: <http://etrl.eu-rotransplant.org/cms/mediaobject.php?id=801>. Furthermore, the application form for AM patients has been updated and can be found here: <http://etrl.eu-rotransplant.org/cms/mediaobject.php?id=800>. Please use this form from now on to request AM status for highly sensitized patients.