



Dear colleagues,

In this autumn issue of the ETRL newsletter we provide you with the EPT shipment dates of 2019, information on the AM program, as well as some future directions of the introduction of the virtual crossmatch within Eurotransplant. Additionally, the date for the 2019 Extramural meeting is set, which will be held in the beautiful city of Groningen. As always, we hope you enjoy reading our newsletter!

### ET Annual Meeting

This year's Tissue Typing Session at the annual ET meeting in Leiden was very well attended. A variety of subjects were discussed, including EPT results and the new positive crossmatch inventory by Yvonne Zoet, novel data on the low rejection incidence in the AM program by Sebastiaan Heidt, positive crossmatches explained by Marie-Paule Emonds (Mechelen) and an overview on the UK policy for matching and prioritization to sensitized patients by Sue Fuggle (Oxford, UK). All presentations provoked lively discussions among the attendants.



### Update positive crossmatch inventory

We would like to thank you for your cooperation in the ETRL positive cross match inventory. This inventory was started to get insight into the number and reason for positive crossmatches at donor centers, with the ultimate aim of introducing the virtual crossmatch in Eurotransplant, as discussed later in this newsletter. Since the initiation of the inventory, we received various input for improvements. Since July 20<sup>th</sup> positive cross matches from ESP and from pancreas procedures are not included anymore since in these cases, often no HLA typing is known at time of crossmatching. As mentioned, during the ET Annual Meeting Yvonne Zoet has shown a short overview on the results of the inventory so far and discussed other possible improvements. The presentation is available from the Eurotransplant website.

### Reminder: EPT rules on HLA split data from January 2019

In order not to rule out donor offers to patients with antibodies against split HLA antigens, all HLA antigens must be typed on serological split level (except for HLA-B14). Therefore, ETRL EPT rules will include mandatory split typing for HLA-A28, Cw3, DR3 and DQ3 as a result in the typing EPT from January 2019 onwards.

In case this gives problems for low-resolution techniques used for the typing EPT, please inform us as soon as possible.

### Acceptance patients in AM program

Highly sensitized patients eligible for entering the AM program will only be accepted when their status is T(ransplantable). Patients with current status NT can only be accepted once their status has been changed into status T.

At the moment, a highly sensitized patient has to be on the active ETKAS waiting list (receiving points for being on dialysis) for at least 2 years to be for the AM program (both pediatric and adult). Currently, a recommendation is being drafted in which the mean active waiting time per country will be used as cut-off for eligibility to the AM program, in order to cope with the huge variety of waiting time within Eurotransplant. A similar strategy will be taken for pediatric patients, in which the mean waiting time for these patients per country is applied.

### Patient based EPT dates

Information/form sent	Deadline
12-02-2019	26-02-2019
04-06-2019	18-06-2019
10-09-2019	24-09-2019

## EPT shipment dates 2019

In case one of these dates interferes with some special events, please inform us as soon as possible.

Shipping date	Typing dispatch (n)	Deadline typing/xm report	screening dispatch (n)	Crossmatch	Deadline screening report
12-02-2019	3	26-02-2019	12	EPT screening A, B, C	02-07-2019
26-03-2019	3	09-04-2019		EPT screening D, E, F	
04-06-2019	3	18-06-2019		EPT screening G, H, I	
10-09-2019	3	24-09-2019		EPT screening J, K, L	

Certificates will be issued in December 2019

## Missing serum at donor centers

Donor center laboratories are kindly requested to inform the Eurotransplant duty officer immediately in case of missing serum, at any time during the crossmatch procedure. This prevents unnecessary retractions of organ offers.

## Reporting of donor HLA typing

The reporting of donor HLA typing data should be done as soon as the full HLA typing is known. Please refrain from submitting partial typing information. Swift communication of the donor HLA typing helps in timely allocation of organs.

## DTT crossmatches

In case a DTT crossmatch is required at the donor center for your patient, please make this apparent by using the 'DTT crossmatch required' tickbox in ENIS. For donor centers it is obligatory to perform a DTT crossmatch for a patients when this box is ticked, and the final results of the crossmatch must be based on the DTT crossmatch.

## Extramural Meeting 2019

The coming extramural will be organized by Bouke Hepkema and colleagues in the heart of Groningen, the Netherlands on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2019. The location will be [Van Swinderen Huys](#), Oude Boteringestraat 19, 9712 GC in Groningen. More information will follow.



## Towards virtual crossmatching

In Germany, the 'Richtlinie Empfängerschutz' has been approved. This guideline includes histocompatibility rules, such as the introduction of virtual crossmatching, as well as mandatory HLA typing of donor and recipient for all loci, including DQA, DPB and DPA. While indeed this is the direction we need to head within the whole of Eurotransplant, these changes cannot be made overnight. The projected implementation of these changes will take approximately two to three years. The consecutive steps that will be taken towards introduction of the virtual crossmatch are:

1. Introduction of the vPRA as the sole way to indicate that a patient is immunized. Once introduced, only HLA antibody specificities and unacceptable antigens can be entered. The vPRA will automatically be calculated from the latter parameter.
2. Introduction of mandatory donor typing for all loci, including DQA, DPB and DPA, and the possibility to enter antibody specificities and unacceptables for all loci.
3. Introduction of the virtual crossmatch and cessation of the serum exchange program.

During this stepwise process, the ETRL will monitor the progress of all the necessary steps. We have already started this by the positive crossmatch inventory.