



# Newsletter



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Dear colleagues,

This spring edition of the ETRL Newsletter comes in a time in which everything has changed. Unfortunately, due to the Corona pandemic many transplant activities were scaled down. Also the TTAC and Extramural meetings have been postponed until further notice. Nonetheless, with this Newsletter we would like to keep you updated on the progress of several aspects of histocompatibility testing within Eurotransplant. Enjoy reading and stay healthy! The ETRL team.

## Introduction of the vPRA

On January the 28<sup>th</sup> this year the vPRA was officially introduced as the sole way to indicate that a patient is immunized. Whereas the transition generally went smooth, there were still several issues that came up and needed to be resolved. Still now, improvements on bulk imports and immunological overviews are being made by the Eurotransplant office.

The realization of the vPRA is a pivotal step towards the introduction of the virtual crossmatch to replace the allocation crossmatch within Eurotransplant. The next step is to make it possible to enter extended HLA typing information into ENIS, on the second field level, including HLA-DQA, HLA-DPB and HLA-DPA. To this aim, a draft has been made for a new HLA table by the ETRL, which has been approved by the TTAC. This table will form the basis for a new system to enter HLA typing data into ENIS. We will keep you updated on the progress of this project.

## External Proficiency Testing

Because of the Corona pandemic we were forced to postpone the March and May shipments. Since governmental restrictions are now gradually scaled down, we have decided to make a new shipment schedule for the 2020 EPT on typing and crossmatching, as well as for the patient-based cases. Additionally, we decided to temporarily prolong the deadlines for submission of the results from 2 to 3 weeks.

Please note that at the moment there is still a possibil-

## Updated patient-based EPT dates 2020

Information/form sent	Deadline results
04-02-2020	18-02-2020
<b>16-06-2020</b>	<b>07-07-2020</b>
<b>03-11-2020</b>	<b>24-11-2020</b>

ity that we are not able or allowed to ship on the dates announced. Whenever necessary we will reschedule again and keep you updated. There will be an extra shipment in January for the laboratories that do not yet meet the criteria or were unable to receive any of the planned shipments. The date of this extra shipment will be announced at a later time.

As of 2020, the summaries of the patient-based cases will be published on the EPT website, in the section about EPT. You will find all summaries since 2017 in this location. Summaries of this year's cases will be published about 2 months after the deadline.

## New ETRL website

The ETRL is very pleased to present you its new [web-site](#). The look and feel of this new website is identical to the Eurotransplant main page.

On the ETRL website information on the tasks and responsibilities of the ETRL can be found, as well as information on the scientific research conducted by the ETRL. Finally, overviews and presentation from the annual ETRL extramural meetings can be found.

## Updated EPT shipment dates 2020

Shipping date	Typing dispatch (n)	Deadline typing/xm report	screening dispatch (n)	Crossmatch dispatch*	Deadline screening report
04-02-2020	3	18-02-2020	EPT-Scr-A-L (12)	EPT-XM-A, B, C	07-07-2020
<b>16-06-2020</b>	3	<b>07-07-2020</b>		EPT-XM-D, E, F	
<b>08-09-2020</b>	3	<b>29-09-2020</b>		EPT-XM-G, H, I	
<b>03-11-2020</b>	3	<b>24-11-2020</b>		EPT-XM-J, K, L	

\*For screening and crossmatching different sera are shipped