



Dear colleagues,

This 20th ETRL Newsletter contains practical information in light of the upcoming virtual crossmatch. Additionally, the new dates for the ETRL EPT excercises have been set. Please contact us in case these dates interfere with any national holidays. Finally, the date of the Extramural meeting has changed. Please find the new date, as well as the preliminary program and practical information in this Newsletter. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

New registration of unacceptable antigens

Since November 23rd it is possible to list unacceptable antigens also at the allelic level and for HLA-DQA1, -DPB1, and -DPA1. It is not mandatory to update all patients on the waiting list. Only for those with allele-specific antibodies and/or patients with antibodies against HLA-DQA1, -DPB1 or -DPA1 the unacceptable antigen status must be updated. This is especially important for unacceptable antigens at the HLA-DQA1, -DPB1 or -DPA1 loci to avoid false negative virtual crossmatches and subsequent positive physical recipients center crossmatches.

The information on unacceptable antigens on the allelic level and for HLA-DQA1, -DPB1, and -DPA1 will be used after the introduction of the virtual crossmatch on January 24th, 2023. Until this time, the allele specific antibodies will be translated to the relevant split or broad antigen for use in the current match algorithm. In case a patient has allele specific antibodies, but in the current system you do not want the associated split or broad listed as unacceptable, please do not yet include this allele-specific unacceptable. A letter with information how to deal with these cases will be sent shortly. Also, please note that it is not yet possible to enter an unacceptable antigen at the allelic level if the recipient itself carries an allele within the same split antigen group, due to restrictions of the current match algorithm. This functionality will become active from January 24th, 2023 onwards.

ETRL check on physical recipient center crossmatches

Since 2018, the ETRL is monitoring the physical crossmatches at the donor center and informs the respective recipient center that a crossmatch was positive for their recipient. With the introduction of the virtual crossmatch there will be a 3 month period where the donor center crossmatch will still be performed. After this, no physical donor center crossmatch will be performed anymore. Instead, the ETRL will start monitoring the outcome of the physical recipient center crossmatch to validate the unacceptable antigen definition for immunized patients. Centers with extraordinarily high numbers of physical recipient center crossmatches will be contacted and asked for an explanation.

Match determinants for DQA1, DPA1 and DPB1

Please be aware that in relation to the virtual crossmatch a new HLA table has been made which includes the loci HLA-DQB1, -DPB1 and -DPA1. For consistency with the other loci, match determinants have been defined for these loci, based on the scientific publication of Osoegawa et al, [HLA, 2022;100\(3\):193-231](https://doi.org/10.1093/hmg/ddab311). This paper has been published in the HLA journal and is available open access to all EFI members through their EFI membership. From January 24th, 2023 the match determinants of the new HLA table will be regis-

EPT shipment dates 2022

Shipping date	Typing dispatch (n)	Deadline typing/xm report	screening dispatch (n)	Crossmatch dispatch*	Deadline screening report
28-02-2023	3	14-03-2023	EPTScr-A-L (12)	EPTxm-A, B, C	04-07-2023
18-04-2023	3	02-05-2023		EPTxm-D, E, F	
13-06-2023	3	27-06-2023		EPTxm-G, H, I	
12-09-2023	3	26-09-2023		EPTxm-J, K, L	

*For screening and crossmatching different sera are shipped

Extra shipment 2023: 14-11-2023. Deadline typing/xm report: 28-11-2023 and deadline screening report: 19-12-2023

tered in Eurotransplant, it is advised to get acquainted to the new HLA table. The table can be found on the [ETRL website](https://etrl.eurotransplant.org).

Patient based EPT dates 2023

Information/form sent	Deadline
28-02-2023	14-03-2023
13-06-2023	27-06-2023
12-09-2023	26-09-2023

Upcoming survey CDC screening

Early 2023 the ETRL will send out a survey on the use of CDC screening within Eurotransplant, as well as on practical aspects of CDC screening. We would like to invite all centers to participate, as the outcome of the survey will be used for a discussion during the extramural meeting in March 2023.

Costs of control reagents

Because of the increasing price of materials and shipment, the costs for ETRL control reagents will increase accordingly and will be effective from January 1st, 2023 onwards.

IgM control serum:	€15,- / mL
IgM blend (only IgM antibodies):	€30,- / mL
IgG blend (only IgG antibodies):	€30,- / mL
Shipping costs: Per shipment:	€40,-

The IgM and IgG blends are mixtures of IgM or IgG HLA-specific monoclonal antibodies, respectively. These reagents cover the vast majority of epitopes on HLA and can be used as a positive control for solid phase assays and flow cytometric crossmatches.

AM program logistics update

We would like to remind you that the postal address for sending sera to determine eligibility for the AM program is the following:

ETRL, M.J.H. van der Linden
LUMC, reception HLA laboratory
Route 414, room E3-5A
Albinusdreef 2
2333 ZA Leiden
The Netherlands

Please make sure to use the most recent forms which can be found on the [ETRL website](https://etrl.eurotransplant.org). Sera should preferably be sent on Mondays or Tuesdays, in order to prevent delivery during weekends. Please announce the shipment of sera to the ETRL office by sending an e-mail to etrl.am@eurotransplant.org.

Announcement and preliminary program Extramural Meeting 2023

Please note that the date of the Extramural Meeting has changed to **Friday the 10th of March 2023**. The Extramural Meeting will take place as a live event in Mechelen, Belgium, from 9:30 until 15:30. (Venue: De Mot; Motstraat 30, Mechelen). For accommodation possibilities please see: <https://visit.mechelen.be/>

Preliminary program:

- EPT results 2022
- Patient Based cases EPT 2022
- First experiences with the virtual crossmatch
- News from the TTAC
- CDC Screening: Overview from the survey
- CDC Screening: Future challenges
- Scientific lecture: Maarten Naesens, Leuven

How to get there

- By train: to railway station Mechelen CENTRAAL (not Mechelen-Nekkerspoel). The main office from the Red Cross Flanders and the venue "De Mot" are on walking distance from the railway station.
- By plane: to airport Zaventem. From there take the train from the airport to Mechelen CENTRAAL (+/- 15 km).
- By car: Please note: Ring Mechelen the traffic can only go in one direction. Furthermore, roadworks are ongoing. Please see the following links: [Tangent - Stad Mechelen](https://stad.mechelen.be/) and [De Nieuwe Vesten](https://denieuwevesten.be/).

