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LONG-TERM SURVIVAL OF LIVER TRANSPLANTATION IN BELARUS
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Liver transplantation is one of the most essential and developing trend in modern surgery. The objective of the work is to show a perspective of liver transplantation and to review liver transplantation in Belarus.

Organ transplantation has become possible due to increased knowledge of fundamental biological processes and the development of new technologies. The first successful liver transplantation was fulfilled in 1967 in Denver, Colorado by Thomas Starzl, who is known as “The father of modern transplantation”. In Europe the first liver transplantation was fulfilled also in 1967 in University of Cambridge.

According to the WHO statistics about 10 thousands of liver transplantation are made annually. This number is the second after the number of kidney transplantations (26 thousand).

At present liver transplantation is a precious standard in treatment of the patients with the liver terminal affections of various etiologies. According to the statistics 25,5 transplantations per one million people are made annually in Belarus. In CIS Belarus is a leader in the number of organ transplantations. From April, 2008 to January, 2009 11 orthotropic liver transplantations were performed at the medical establishment “The 9th city clinical hospital” in Minsk. The most well-known Belarusian specialist in liver transplantation is a leader of the Republican scientific-practical center “Organ and tissue transplantation” Oleg Rummo.

Not all patients survive after transplantation. Despite being extremely complex, liver transplantation effectivity is recognized to be high: the survival rate of patients is 75-88% in the world. In Belarus this index was never high than 4%, which is even higher, then in Germany (5,5 – 14, 5%). It's explained both by the high level of proficiency of surgeons and careful search of donor organs. After transplantation most people live for 30-40 years.

Liver transplantation is one of the most perspective and dynamically developing trends of modern medicine as it offers patients with the liver diseases a chance for a better quality and length of life. Achievements in medicine, technologies and medical practice made possible to perform such difficult operations and open the door to normal lives for all transplant recipients.