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THE CHANGING FACE OF THE HEART TRANSPLANTATION
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Heart transplantation is one of the most developing directions in transplantation. The objective of the work is to show a perspective of heart transplantation and to review the heart transplantation in Belarus.

Organ transplantation has become possible due to increased knowledge of fundamental biological processes and the development of new technologies. The foundations of organ transplantation were established by the work of Alexis Carrel on cell and tissue culture in the early years of the 20th century. In 1905 he and Charles Guthrie (the University of Chicago) performed the first experimental heart transplantation.

Recent advances in transplantation immunology, organ preservation, allograft vasculopathy, and immune tolerance resulted in better outcomes of clinical transplants.

Transplantation is now considered to be the standard therapy for end-stage heart disease. For the first time the heart transplantation in Belarus was performed at the Republican Scientific and Practical Center "Cardiology" in 2009, in Minsk. Since that time, more than 200 operations have already been performed, indicating solid experience of surgeons.

Sometimes heart transplantation is the only chance to save a person's life. Its effectiveness, despite the complexity of the operation, is quite high: the survival rate of patients at one year is 81.8%, at 5 years - 69.8%. A significant number of patients live after transplantation for longer than 10 years. The functional state of patients after surgery significantly improves, allowing them to lead an active lifestyle due to the world-class medical care provided by highly qualified specialists and rehabilitation with the use of the latest equipment.

Heart transplantation offers patients with end stage heart failure a chance for a better quality and length of life. Achievements in transplantation, immune tolerance will eventually open the door to normal lives for all transplant recipients.