



TT Lab.	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	Bw	Bw	Cw	Cw	
AN	28:68	19:30	19:56					6				
Typ. Material	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	Cw	Cw	
Pb1	5	4	5	3	1	3						
HLA	Date: 13-4-01							Time: 0018				
Contact						Hemodynamics						
Contact Person(s)	Diuretic last hour: 85 ml			Diuretic per hour:			Diuretic last 24 hours: 2800 ml			Last ... 19 ... hr(s): 1635		
Tel. Nr:	Blood pressure: 90/45			CVP: 14 cmH <sub>2</sub> O / mmHg			Heart frequency			Hypotensive Periods		
Donor Hospital:	date: 9-4 ± 3 min's			Nc: 60 min's			Cardiac arrest: Y (N)			Nc: date:		
Tel. Nr:	date: 12-4-00			time: 19:30			Resuscitation: Y (N)			date:		
at ± 02:00 hrs	Fluoride			Virology / Bacteriology ± 23:10			HIV Ab: (-)			HCV Ab: (-)		
at ± 02:00 hrs	HIV Other			HBe Ag: (-)			VDRL / TPHA:			Tb Ab:		
at ± 02:00 hrs	HBe Ab: (-)			HTLV I & II Ab:			Other:			Cultures		
at ± 02:00 hrs	L-Kidney			R-Kidney			Blood:			Medication (+ dose)		
at ± 02:00 hrs	Dopamine:			Dobutamine:			Norepinephrine:			Adrenaline:		
at ± 02:00 hrs	Cause of death:			S.H. geïsoleerd			verkeersongeval					
at ± 02:00 hrs	Admission			date: 9-4-00			Time: 4:30					



**EUROTRANSPLANT**  
International key role

*The Eurotransplant Foundation is a non-profit organization whose main aim is to encourage organ transplantation. Eurotransplant acts as a go-between and coordinates international exchange of donor organs across a region with 124 million inhabitants.*

*Transplant centers, tissue typing laboratories and donor hospitals in Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Croatia, Germany, Austria and Slovenia share in this international effort. Eurotransplant is based in Leiden, the Netherlands.*

## **History**

Professor Doctor Jon J. van Rood set up the Eurotransplant Foundation in 1967. Excessive differences in blood and tissue groups of donors and recipients caused many donor organs to be rejected. Prof. Van Rood believed that central registration of all patients on the waiting list, leading to a greater chance of compatibility between donor and recipient, would greatly improve the results of transplantations. Eurotransplant thus aims at registering patients, and has done so with considerable success: the transplant centers presently collaborating with Eurotransplant have a collective waiting list of more than 15,000 patients.

In the beginning, Eurotransplant's activities were almost entirely centered on kidney transplants, but quickly these were extended to include liver transplants, followed some time later by heart, lung and pancreas transplants. The most recent organs to be allocated by Eurotransplant are the intestine and pancreatic islet-cells.

## **Eurotransplant's working methods**

As mediator between donor and recipient, Eurotransplant plays a key role in acquiring and distributing donor organs for transplantation. Data obtained from all potential recipients -including such items as blood group, tissue type, cause of illness, clinical urgency and the patient's treating hospital - are stored in a centralized database. As soon as a donor becomes available anywhere in the Eurotransplant region, all relevant donor information is transmitted by the regional transplant coordinator to Eurotransplant's headquarters in Leiden. The tissue typing laboratory closest to the donor hospital performs blood and tissue group analyses from the donor. This information enables selection of potential organ recipients.

Selection criteria depend on the available donor organs. For a renal transplant the blood group, the tissue type, the clinical urgency and the time spent on the waiting list are used as basic criteria.

Each other organ also requires special criteria. For liver, lung and heart, for instance, the organ size is very important.





### Science

After a transplantation has been performed, Eurotransplant keeps in touch with the transplant centers in order to collect information on the results. Analyses of these data help Eurotransplant to identify factors which have a long-term effect on transplants. Such factors include different HLA groups, storage techniques for organs, donor age and the drugs used to prevent transplant rejection.

### Finance

Eurotransplant's activities are entirely financed by the health insurance companies in the participating countries. New agreements regarding the organization's budget and the resulting registration fees are negotiated annually with the financiers.

### Tissue characteristics: the HLA system

As the characteristics of the red blood cells can be divided into groups (O, A, B and AB), so can the tissue characteristics. Tissue groups are commonly known as HLA (Human Leucocyte Antigens) groups. In human beings the best way to determine them is with the help of the white blood cell or leucocyte. All nuclear cells in the body carry these HLA characteristics, containing information on e.g. immunity. The ability to recognize foreign proteins, i.e. immunity, is of vital importance in organ transplantation. A rejection reaction occurs when the immune system of the organ recipient recognizes the transplanted organ as a foreign body. The wider the differences between the HLA characteristics of donor and recipient, the greater the chance of rejection.

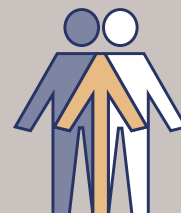
Like blood groups, HLA groups are hereditary, passed on from parent to child. In contrast to the major blood groups, the HLA system consists of a large number of (sub)groups which can occur in all possible combinations. This great number of combinations makes it very unlikely that two people possess exactly the same HLA characteristics. In order to prevent rejection after a transplantation, however, the best possible similarity of HLA characteristics between donor and recipient is desired. Therefore, finding a suitable recipient for the donor organ is a very difficult task. This is exactly why the Eurotransplant Foundation was established: to select from a large 'pool' of waiting patients the most 'suitable' recipient for every available donor organ.

### An organization in top gear

As soon as the most suitable recipient of an organ has been identified, Eurotransplant contacts the patient's treating physician to plan the transplantation. Eurotransplant organizes together with the regional transplant coordinator the surgical retrieval of organs and their (international) transport to the recipients' transplant centers. If no suitable recipient can be found within Eurotransplant, Eurotransplant immediately contacts one of its sister organizations, for example in the United Kingdom, Sweden, Spain, France, Italy and other European countries, Eurotransplant maintains good contact with since the seventies. In most cases the whole process - from removal of the donor organ to the moment of transplantation - should not take more than a few hours. An organization that runs smoothly is therefore literally life saving. Eurotransplant's headquarter is thus staffed 24 hours a day. Two directors work there during the day with approximately 35 staff members. Outside office hours Eurotransplant employs specially trained medical students. It goes without saying that in addition to medical and nursing assistance, Eurotransplant could not do without the help of other groups such as the police, the ambulance services and the airlines.



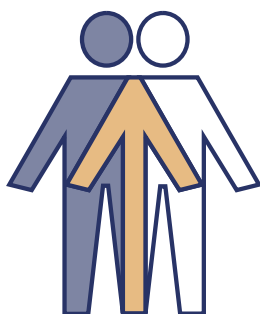
Organ	Selection criteria
Kidney and pancreas	<i>blood group, tissue characteristics, clinical urgency and waiting time</i>
Heart and lungs	<i>blood group, donor height and weight, clinical urgency, waiting time</i>
Liver	<i>blood group, donor weight, clinical urgency and waiting time</i>





More and more individuals and organizations are beginning to realize the importance of transplantations. Many organizations are pursuing research, setting up auxiliary provisions inside and outside the hospitals and drawing up appropriate legislation. Unfortunately, the number of donors available is far from adequate with respect to the ever growing demand. In Europe alone there are tens of thousands of patients waiting for a life saving transplantation. Hence Eurotransplant's enthusiasm for campaigns designed to promote organ donation.

Eurotransplant also cooperates with regional transplant coordinators to provide information to nursing and medical staff in the hospitals in order to familiarize them with the donor procedure. Here, great emphasis is placed on a caring attitude towards the donor's family. By donating organs for transplantation after an individual's death, each of us is able to make a contribution to the health and happiness of a fellow human being. The list of people who were prepared to take this step, is far too long to quote each one of them individually. It is these people who constitute the basis on which Eurotransplant is able to perform its tasks.



# EUROTRANSPLANT

Eurotransplant International Foundation  
P.O. Box 2304  
2301 CH Leiden  
The Netherlands

Tel +31 71 579 57 95  
Fax +31 71 579 00 57  
Info: [mbeer@eurotransplant.nl](mailto:mbeer@eurotransplant.nl)

[www.eurotransplant.nl](http://www.eurotransplant.nl)