

25 October 2013

1000 kidney transplants performed in Estonia

The thousandth kidney transplant was performed in Estonia this October. This year also marks 45 years from the first kidney transplant in Estonia.

According to Virge Pall, Director of the Tartu University Hospital Transplantation Centre, the first kidney transplant in Estonia involving an adult patient was performed on 20 December 1968 at Maarjamõisa Hospital in Tartu. Paediatric kidney transplants have been performed in Estonia since 1974.

Pall comments that Tartu University Hospital is the only health care institution in Estonia that performs kidney transplants, and the clinic carries out an average of 50 kidney transplants each year. Last year was more successful than usual as regards kidney transplants, with 59 transplants carried out. That makes 45.4 kidney transplants per million population per year, which compares favourably with the figures from other European countries.

According to Pall, there are now roughly 450 people in Estonia with transplanted kidneys, and as of today there are 43 patients on the waiting list.

Kidney transplants are performed at the Tartu University Hospital by three experienced urologists – Dr Aleksander Lõhmus, Dr Peeter Dmitriev and Dr Jaanus Kahu.

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