Cystic Fibrosis in Serbia: Current State and Future Plans

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Serbia - Demographics and CF

• Population: ~7.2
• ~210 total patients
  • 70% Pediatric
  • 30% Adult
CF Centre in Serbia

Currently, there is only **1 CF centre** in Serbia fulfilling ECFS Standards of Care criteria – Mother and Child Heath Care Institute:

- No adult centre exists

Neonatal screening is performed only regionally (planned to be nationwide by the end of the calendar year 2018)
CF Centre staff

- CF centre is multidisciplinary and staffed with:
  - Pulmonologist
  - Physiotherapist
  - Endocrinologist
  - Surgery
  - Microbiologist
  - Nutritionist
  - Gastroenterologist
  - Psychologist
  - Clinical Nursing
  - Social Worker

*Our CF centre follows ECFS guidelines*
Challenges and development

Challenges

• Very dependent on the federal funding/support
• Segregation of the patients
  • About 40-60% are chronically colonized (Pseudomonas aeruginosa)
• Taking care of adult patient population
• Need to further develop palliative care service and home therapy
• Overcoming transplantation issues (Non developed transplantation center + Serbia don’t have signed agreement with “Eurotransplant”)

Development

• Building a new CF center
• Continuing the lung transplantation program
• Further development of lung function testing (including MBW), cardiopulmonary exercise testing and home i. V. therapy
There are five experienced pediatric nurses in the service who can deal with many CF patients’ issues.

Still, none of them have accredited training in CF, since there is not such training provided in this country.

Moreover, they do not have sufficient time, office space, computer/printer and financial support in order to be able to provide a reliable service, as recommended by ECFS Standards of Care.

Their competencies are good in clinical practice, knowledge in CF and communication with patients and must be improved in other domains.

All are experienced in performing clinical studies.
Thank you!

Hvala!