

Lung Transplantation of Cystic Fibrosis Patients in Poland

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Cystic Fibrosis

Cystic Fibrosis is a life-limiting genetic disease that affects many organs in the body, predominantly the lungs.

Cystic Fibrosis in Poland

- About 1050 diagnosed CF Patients
- 11 CF Centres (below standards)
- The monthly cost of treatment
(for parents/patients): 200 €– 4 500 €
- The medium age of death – 18
- The patients older then 18 years - 30%

A rescue

Double lung transplantation is now an effective treatment for respiratory failure due to CF because of effective patient selection, surgical techniques, immunosuppression and posttransplant management.

The story of Iga

- Iga was born in 1987
- Diagnosed of CF
in 3 month of life
- Very serious
symptoms
since she was
a young child

The story of Iga

Iga was weaker
than other
children at the
same age

The story of Iga

- Permanently cough
- Problems in keeping weight
- Very often infections
- Very often hospital treatments
- No school – she had to learn at home

Very quick progress of disease

- 14 years old - can't walk up the stairs
- 15 years old – needs oxygen 24 hours a day
- 16 years old – can't walk

The story of Iga

17 years old - close to death

The decision of lung transplant for Iga

- There is only one transplant center that makes lung transplantations in Poland
- Very difficult and long term procedure
- No one made lung transplant to CF patient before in Poland
- No donors

Looking for help in other European Union Country

A positive answer from Vien !

January 17th, 2006

- The successful surgery made in AKH in Vien
- 6 weeks later Iga is back home
- After almost 2 years she says that she's got a new life – graduated High School she is a student of a University

What`s the problem ?

- The cost of one transplantation for CF patient in Poland is 0 € (common health insurance) - but there is no real possibility to do it
- The cost of one transplantation for Polish CF patient in other European Union Countries is 90 000 € (no matter that she/he has a health insurance) and they do it

What does it mean?

- It means that only a few Polish CF patients could take an advantage of the method of treatment that is commonly accessible for CF patients in other countries of European Union

It means death for young people who had bad luck to be born with CF and in addition they were born in wrong country