

# FIRST TWO YEARS OF RENAL TRANSPLANTATION IN MONTENEGRO



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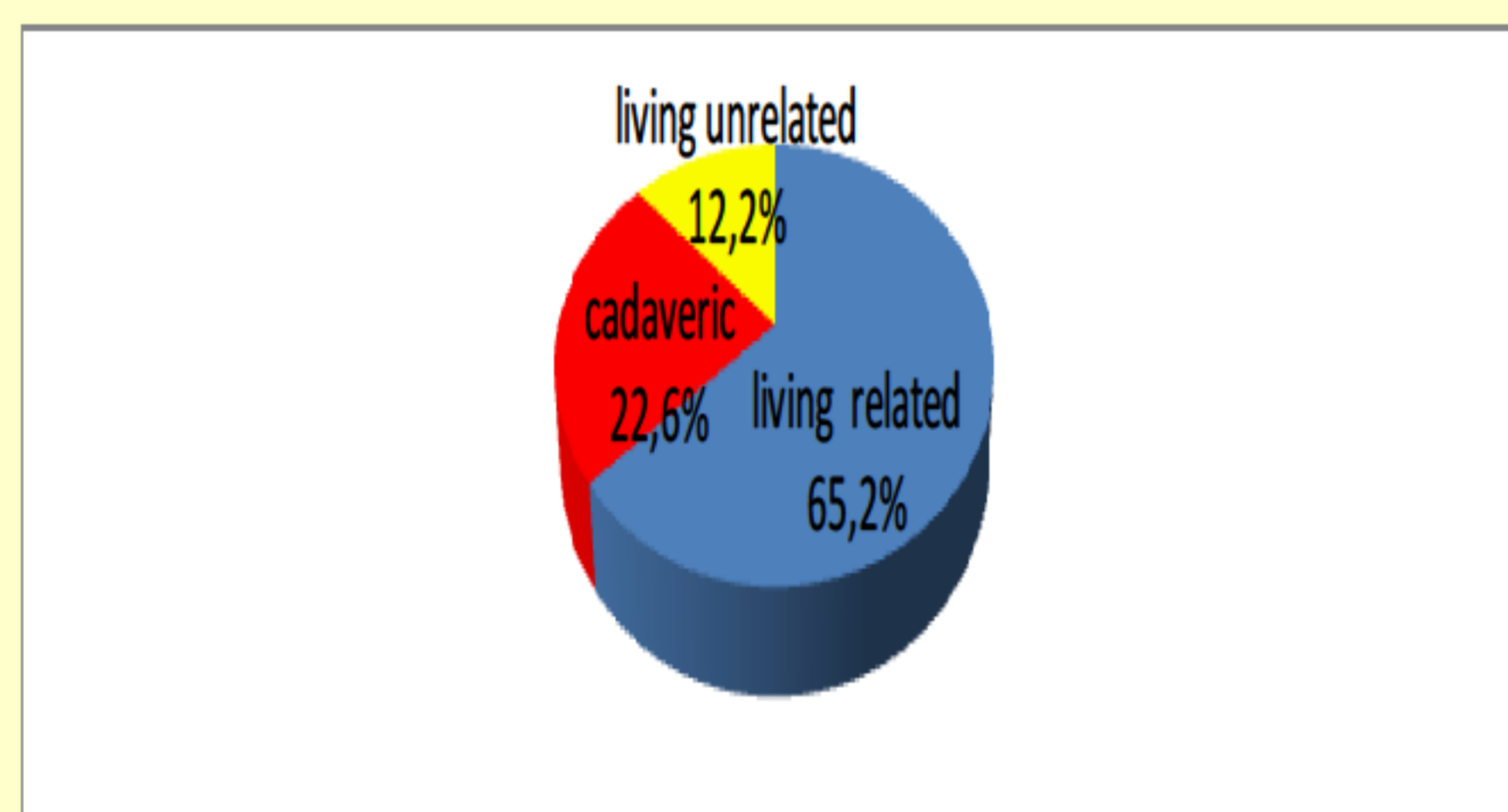
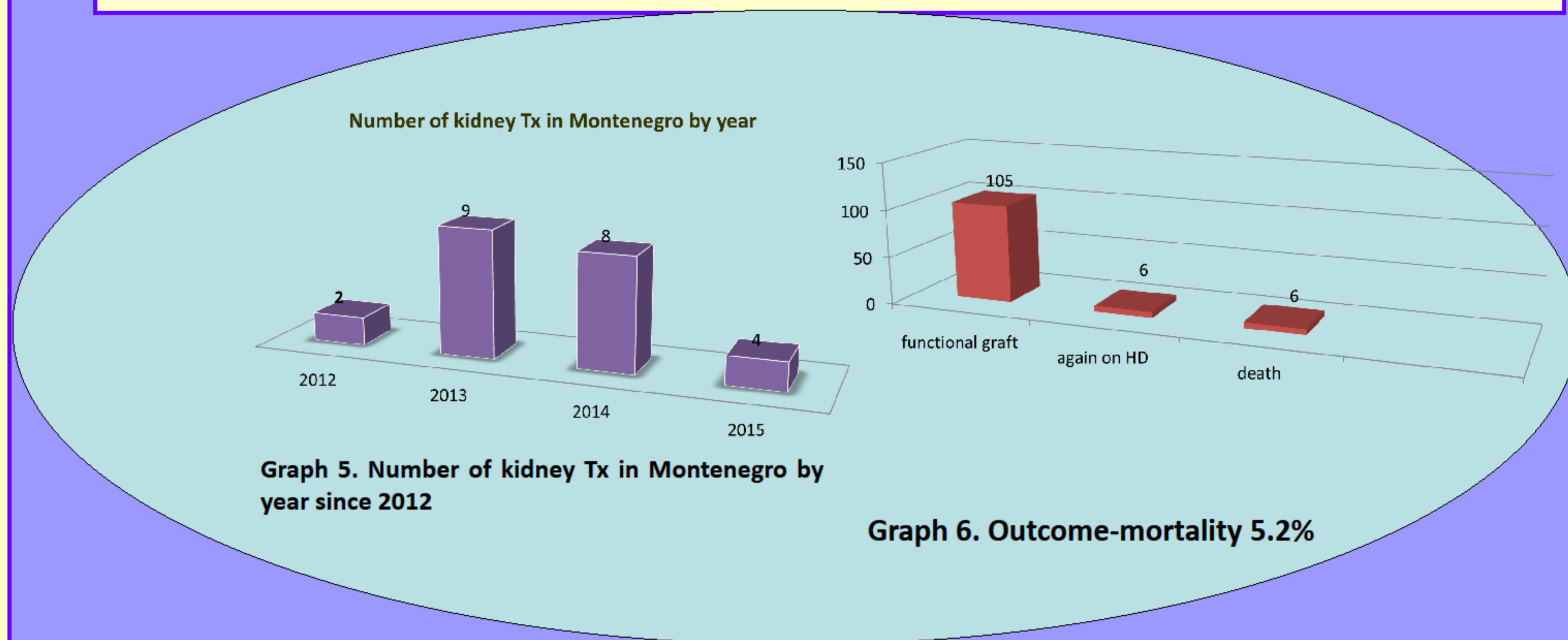
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## Objectives:

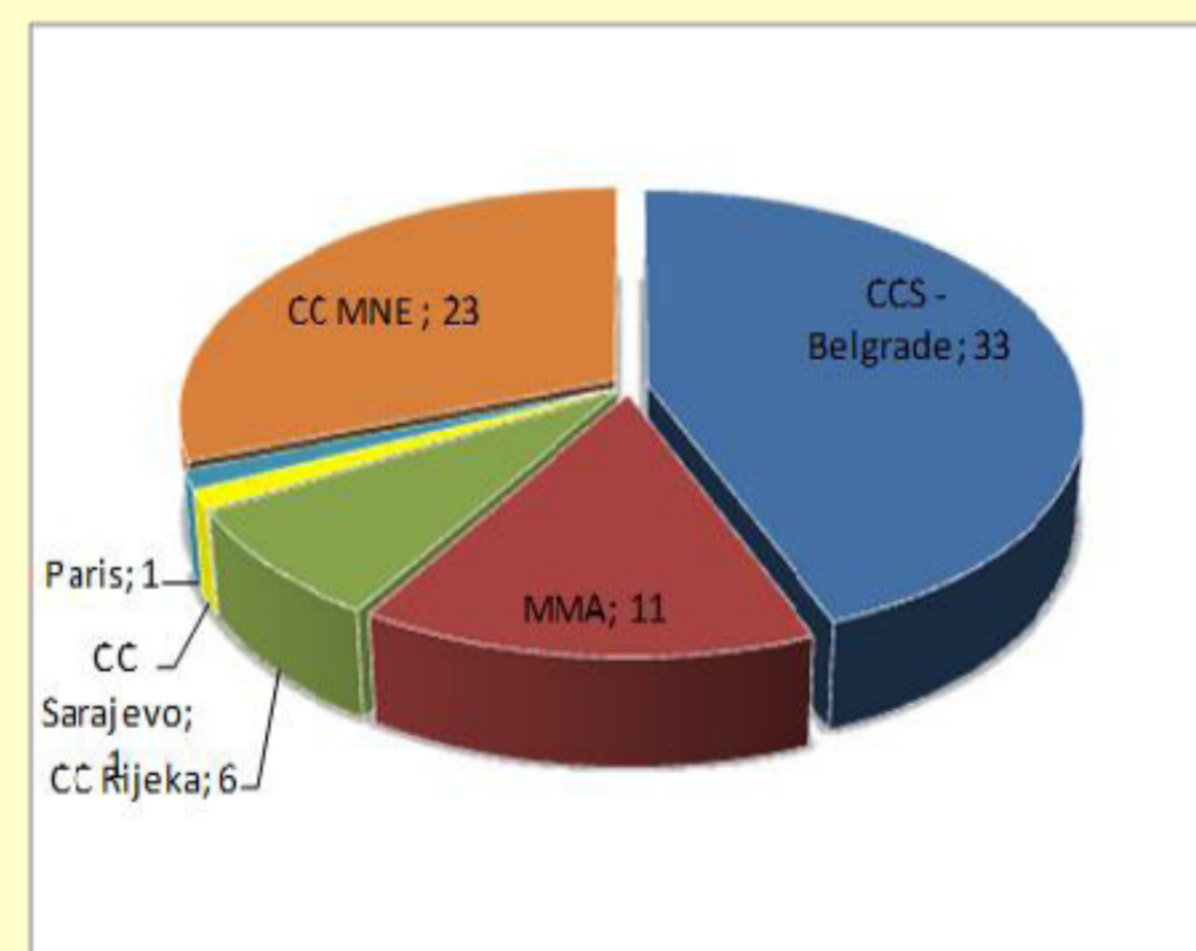
In Montenegro there was no transplantation program until 2012. On the other hand, there were 89 patients with transplanted kidney. These transplantations were performed abroad; 15% in areas of black organ markets (India, Pakistan, Russian Federation) (graphs 1. - 4.). Beside the ethical problems, these transplantations carried high risk of complications. Our health system had to ensure the solution for patients with terminal organ failure. Preparation of all necessary conditions for the beginning of transplantation program in Montenegro started in 2006 with different activities including public, legal, medical, educational and international cooperation aspects.

## Methods:

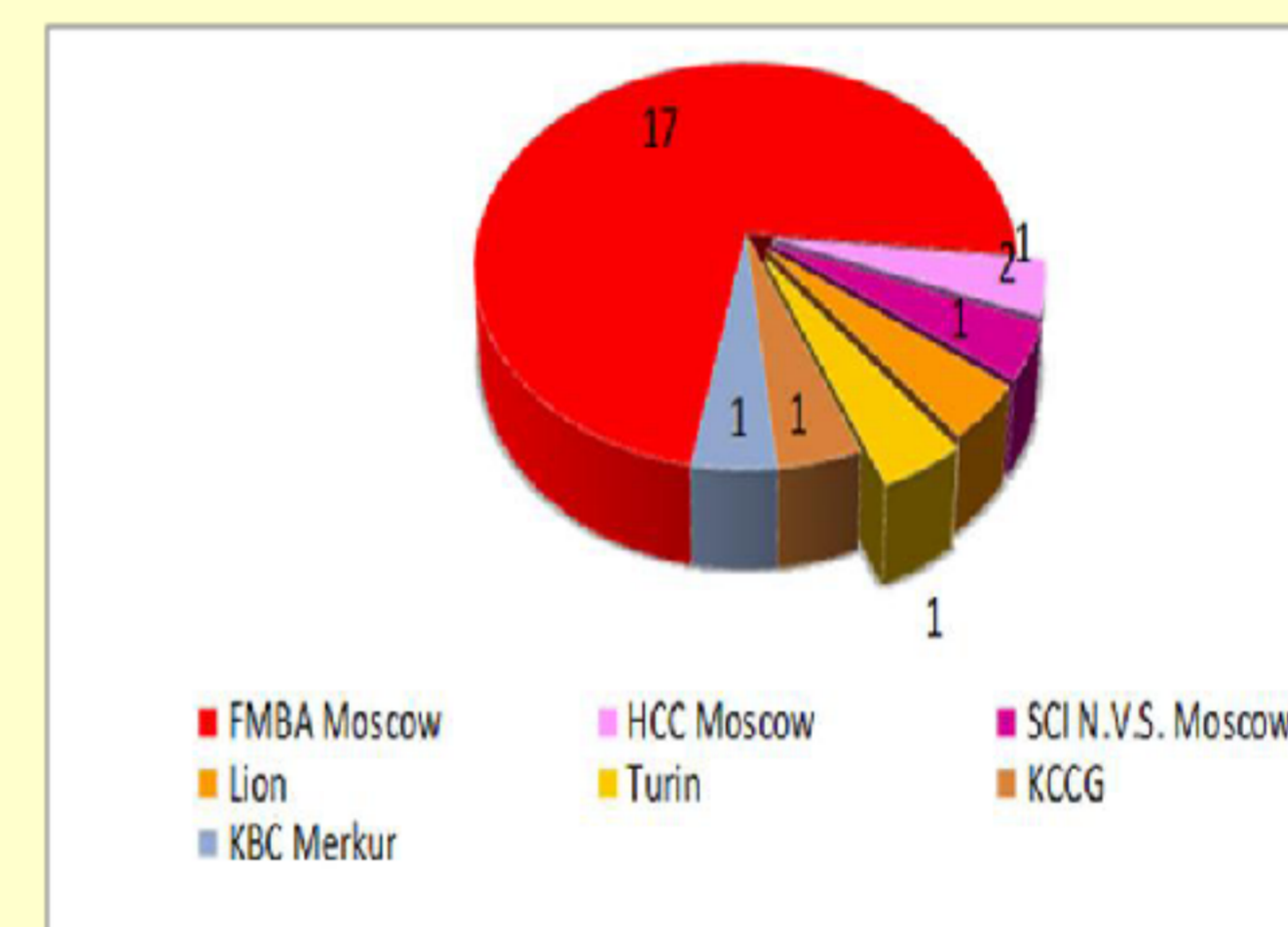
Data referring to the outcome of kidney transplantation program in Montenegro.



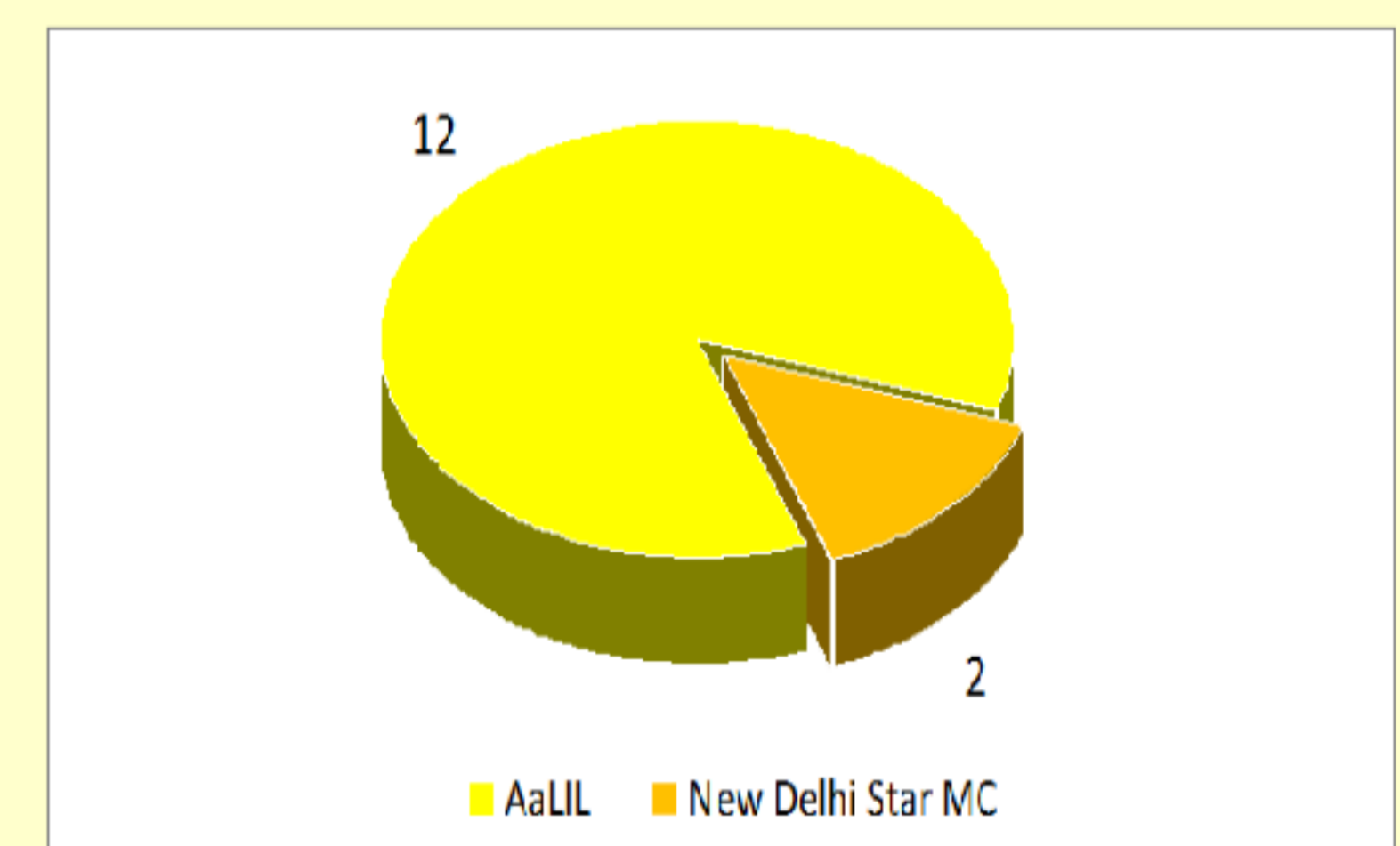
Graph 1. Kidney transplantation of patients from Montenegro by donor type.



Graph 2. Living related kidney transplantation of patients from Montenegro by Tx center



Graph 3. kidney tx from deceased donors of patients from Montenegro by Tx center



Graph 4. Living unrelated kidney tx of patients from Montenegro by tx center

## Results:

The first kidney transplantations from living donors in Montenegro were performed on 25 and 26th September 2012. In the period from 2012 until now 23 kidney transplantations from living related donor were performed and one kidney transplantation from deceased donor in Clinical Center of Montenegro. In the period of two years of follow up, all patients to whom kidney transplantation was performed are in good condition and without serious complication in posttransplant period. There was complication in one kidney recipient in perioperative period due to thrombosis of graft artery who had delayed graft function after reintervention. Serum creatinine level in the follow up period was in referent level. There was no episodes of hyperacute and acute rejection and there were no episodes of complications of immunosuppressive therapy. All kidney donors are followed up carefully in our center; their serum creatinine level was in reference level and there was no evidence of impaired residual kidney function (graphs 5. -6.).



- Historic event for advancing transplantation in the Balkan Region through the framework of the South-eastern Europe Health Network
- Croatian Minister of Health Rajko Ostojic and a team of ten Croatian transplant doctors and delegates arrived in Podgorica, Montenegro on 24 September 2012 to assist Montenegrin doctors in conducting the first-ever organ transplantation in the country. The procedure, which took place on 25 September, was the first living related kidney transplantation in Montenegro, with a 45-year-old mother donating a kidney to her 25-year-old son. The transplantation was successful, and both mother and son are recovering well. The second living related kidney transplantation took place the next day, immediately following the first as Croatian doctors were on site to assist their Montenegrin colleagues for a mother to donate a kidney to her young daughter.
- The operations were performed at the University Hospital Montenegro under the supervision of Professor Marina Ratkovic, nephrologist, who has been spearheading transplantation efforts in the country and leading the newly established Montenegrin kidney transplant team.

## Conclusions:

Ensuring the transplantation program allowed controlled transplantation and the safety of patients. The development of transplantation system improved many medical fields and continuous education of medical staff. Our next steps are development of deceased organ donor transplantation and achievement of higher rate of deceased donor kidney transplantation and individualization of immunosuppressive therapy.



- Eurotransplant congratulates Montenegro with first living related kidney transplantation
  - 28-09-2012
  - The Eurotransplant community congratulates Montenegro with its first organ transplantation since starting a national transplant program in Summer 2012.
- The procedure was successful and took place under Croatian RHDC Regional Health Development Center (RHDC) Leadership.

