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## **Current practice of care for adolescent and adult patients after Fontan surgery in Poland: Heart transplantation**

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We have read with great interest the article “Current practice of care for adolescent and adult patients after Fontan surgery in Poland” by Ewa Warchoń-Celińska et al. [1] along with the connected Editorial article by Clift et al. [2]. It is very good to know that an attempt to unify the care of the patients after Fontan surgery has been made in our country. The number of included patient is quite large — 398, taking in consideration that only 6 cardiological centers from Poland participated in the survey. In our material from the Pediatric Outpatient Clinic (not including Adult Outpatient Clinic) of Silesian Center of Cardiology Diseases in Zabrze, Poland 262 patients with single ventricle were registered from 2008, and 30 of them were after Fontan operation. In the latter group, there occurs, over time a significant amount of complications, including: impairment of ventricular function and heart failure, regurgitation of the atrio-ventricular valves, protein losing enteropathy, hepatic failure, progressive cyanosis, thromboembolic complications, development of vascular fistulas in the lung, arrhythmias etc. Currently, the ultimate treatment for failed Fontan circulation is cardiac transplantation which is a very complex procedure per se, with very promising result when successful [3]. Clift et al.

[2] stated that all specialized centers treating patient after Fontan operation should have a relationship with a cardiac transplant center with the ability to asses patients for possible cardiac transplantation. In our Center, to date, 8 such procedures have been performed by dr Szymon Pawlak (publication in preparation).

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