

Dear Friends, Readers of Scripta Medica

Because this issue is devoted to papers from the Centre of Cardiovascular Surgery and Transplantation, allow me to begin with some introductory comments.

Our Centre was established at the end of 1977 as the first department in the former Czechoslovakia that specialised exclusively in cardiovascular surgery. After I was appointed as Director of the Centre in 1984, the range of surgical procedures was extended to include transplantation of vitally important organs, i.e., the liver, kidneys and, in later years, the heart. The number of patients undergoing cardiovascular surgery increased in every year. We introduced the surgical treatment of ischaemic heart disease and its complications, and developed more effective techniques for treating valvular disease. The number of patients operated on for this condition in our Centre is currently the highest in the Czech Republic. After complete renovation and modernisation, our Centre was re-opened in 1987 and became involved in the research and scientific investigations carried out by the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic. At present it is equipped with up-to-date technologies and has highly skilled specialists in cardiology, cardiac and vascular surgery, cardiac anaesthesia and transplant surgery, which enables us to achieve excellent outcomes both in surgical treatment of cardiac disorders and in organ transplantation. The number of cardiac operations is more than 1400 per year with a mortality rate lower than 2%. In the case of transplant surgery, we rank second in the Czech Republic; our results are comparable with the achievements of major transplant centres of the world.

While cardiovascular surgery has been performed in Brno for 50 years, the Centre of Cardiovascular Surgery and Transplantation has now been in existence for 25 years. I would like to express my thanks to the editors of Scripta Medica for providing us with the opportunity to present a cross-section of our results to medical readers in the pages of this journal.

Thank you!

*Jan Černý*

