Department of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery in Gdansk in its new location – previous activity and perspectives for development

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Abstract

The Department of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery in Gdansk is the only pediatric cardiac surgery center in northern Poland providing comprehensive treatment to children with congenital heart defects. The Department of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery in Gdansk currently offers a full spectrum of advanced procedures of modern cardiac surgery and interventional cardiology dedicated to patients from infancy to adolescence. January 19, 2016 marked the official opening of its new location.

Key words: pediatric cardiac surgery, Gdansk, interventional cardiology, hybrid technique.

Streszczenie

Oddział Kardiochirurgii Dziecięcej w Gdańsku jest jedynym ośrodkiem kardiochirurgii dziecięcej zajmującym się kompleksowym leczeniem wrodzonych wad serca u dzieci na obszarze północnej Polski. Obecnie na Oddziale Kardiochirurgii Dziecięcej w Gdańsku możliwe jest wykonanie pełnego zakresu zaawansowanych procedur współczesnej kardiochirurgii i kardiologii interwencyjnej, od noworodka do okresu nastoletniego. 19 stycznia 2016 r. uroczyście otwarto nową siedzibę w Szpitalu im. św. Wojciecha w Gdańsku-Zaspie.

Słowa kluczowe: kardiochirurgia dziecięca, Gdańsk, kardiologia interwencyjna, zabiegi hybrydowe.

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Received: 8.05.2016, accepted: 14.10.2016.
from the Pomeranian region, it also serves the following voivodeships: Kuyavian-Pomeranian, Warmian-Masurian, West Pomeranian, and Podlaskie. Neonates and infants constitute 70–80% of all patients hospitalized at the department every year.

Since its creation, the department has been constantly expanding its activity, educating young medical staff, acquiring new modern equipment, and extending the scope of the procedures performed. The Department of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery in Gdansk currently offers a full spectrum of advanced procedures of modern cardiac surgery and interventional cardiology dedicated to patients from infancy to adolescence [2]. It focuses on multi-specialist cooperation in the selection of optimum treatment provided by the “heart team”, which evolved into the “hybrid heart team” with the development of a hybrid program in the center [3, 4].

An advanced prenatal diagnostic program, conducted at the Outpatient Cardiology for Children in cooperation with obstetrics and gynecology teams, constitutes an important part of the holistic care provided to neonates suffering from heart defects. The growing popularity of prenatal examinations allows for quick diagnosis of cardiovascular defects in a fetus, enabling the preparation of multi-profile, comprehensive care and immediate neonatal treatment at the Gdansk-Zaspa specialist hospital before the child is born.

The year 2016 saw another important stage in the development of the Department of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery in Gdansk. January 19, 2016 marked the official opening of its new location, built on a site acquired after the merger of two district hospitals in Gdansk into the integrated structure of COPERNICUS Podmiot Leczniczy Sp. z o.o. The adaptation and major renovation of the department, located on the sixth floor of the Św. Wojciech Hospital in Gdansk-Zaspa, was possible thanks to another investment made by the Pomeranian Marshal’s Office. The determination of Mieczysław Struk, the Marshal of the Pomeranian Voivodeship, and support of Hanna Zych-Cisoń, the Deputy Marshal for Health, enabled the efficient reorganization of the Department of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery, which received a worthy seat reflecting the needs of the region. The department was built in accordance with recommendations provided by scientific societies, clearly specifying the op-
timum conditions for the operation of a modern pediatric cardiac surgery center.

The reinforced resources of the Department of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery of the Św. Wojciech Hospital in Gdansk-Za

The team was built based on the rules of cooperation adopted by renowned Polish and foreign pediatric cardiac surgery centers cooperating with the department [5–7]. This specialist team is capable of accrediting residents and training specialists in cardiac surgery, pediatric cardiology, and neonatology. The current plans of the COPERNICUS PL company include the construction of a hotel for the parents of children with congenital heart defects coming to Gdansk for treatment (Fig. 4) and a modern surgical ward with a hybrid operating theater dedicated to pediatric cardiac surgery.

Hoping for further effective operation of the Department of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery in Gdansk, with the well-being and safety of children with congenital heart defects in Poland in mind, we encourage specialists from other centers to cooperate with us as partners in the future.

Disclosure

Authors report no conflict of interest.

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