

A festive opening ceremony for the new EMG apparatus was held today in the Tallinn Children's Hospital. The new instrument will help to diagnose complicated neurological conditions and if a propensity for such a disease is detected in an early stage, it will possibly enable prevention of a mobility disability. The money for the purchase of the €30,000 EMG instrument was largely raised by the audience of the Kanal 2 programme "Dancing with the Stars", but donations from private persons and companies were also needed.

"The fact that we are here today shows us that charity in Estonia is evolving and our will to do good for society is increasing," said Evelin Ilves, the patron of the Tallinn Children's Hospital Foundation. "The new EMG instrument is one example of how our caring for one another and our sense of togetherness manifests itself. I would like to express my gratitude to all of you who contributed to making this happen."

"We have been looking forward to having an electromyograph or EMG instrument here in our children's hospital for over a year now," said Inna Kramer, the head of the Tallinn Children's Hospital Foundation. "The old apparatus stopped working last autumn and as such apparatuses are no longer produced, it was not possible to repair it. Hence we decided to get a new and modern instrument with more possibilities and with even more detailed results for the detection and prevention of nerve diseases in children. Our greatest gratitude goes to Kanal 2 and the audience of the programme "Dancing with the Stars" as they donated most of the €28,546 needed for the purchase of the instrument by making phone calls.

"To put it simply, the EMG apparatus is used for the detection of muscle and nerve activity. It can be employed to carry out different neurophysiological examinations and treatment procedures and if respective additional equipment is available, also for monitoring during surgery as this helps to avoid the possible complication – that is mobility disability," said Dr. Kaidi Lunge, a neurophysiologist at the Tallinn Children's Hospital, when explaining the nature of an EMG apparatus. "One special value of this instrument is that the changes in the condition of a child examined are measurable and have numerical value. This makes the rehabilitation process objectively measurable – otherwise the evaluation of the treatment results is based on a subjective opinion."

According to Kaidi Lunge the EMG apparatus is very frequently used at the Children's Hospital. For example in 2010 the number of diagnostic or prophylactic examinations carried out with an electromyography was 1600. The apparatus was used 45 times for monitoring during surgery and 44 times for injecting botulinum toxin.

The Tallinn Children's Hospital Foundation (www.toetusfond.ee) is a charity the aim of which is to contribute to the development of a truly child-friendly hospital and to the provision of the best possible medical care in the Tallinn Children's Hospital and to change the attitudes prevailing in society towards children and the problems of children, especially children who are ill.

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