

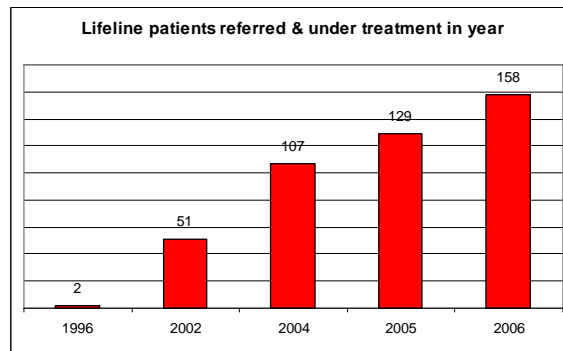
LIFELINE – information sheet 1

Lifeline history

The Lifeline project started in 1996 when we were asked to help two Russian children with leukaemia, a 14 year old girl Sasha and 12 year old boy Alexey. They needed bone marrow transplants which were not available in Russia but they did not have the £75,000 needed for this chance of life. We raised the money and they both had successful transplants at Hammersmith Hospital in London; Sasha is now a 24 year old artist and Alexey is a chef in St Petersburg. Following their return home we offered the Russian doctors the possibility to accept one patient per year for transplant. The Russian hospital immediately referred seven more children! We knew that there was not enough money or capacity in the UK for such a number, and so we wrote to hospitals around the world seeking help. Of all the countries we contacted only Italy offered to help. First Pavia and Genova Gaslini hospitals and subsequently Padova hospitals accepted our children, and our first patients were transplanted without charge. It was an amazing humanitarian gesture and it gave us the confidence to continue with the work and accept more children for life-saving transplants.

Since that time we have expanded our work to include patients from Ukraine, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan (plus a few children from Romania and other countries). In total 550 children have been referred to us by the end of 2006, and children are now treated in 8 Italian cities as well as several UK hospitals.

1996: request to help 2 Russian children with leukaemia
1997: *Russian Lifeline* formed
1998: 7 more children referred - some treated in Italian hospitals
2001: first referral from the Ukraine
2002: first referral from Kyrgyzstan
2002: project renamed 'Lifeline' as patients now from several countries
2003: first referral from Georgia
2003: *Lifeline Italia ONLUS* registered
2005: UK charities consolidated as *Paul O'Gorman Lifeline*
2006: 158 patients under treatment or referral in the year
[total referrals now exceed 550 children]



then - 1996



and now

Alexey



Sasha



