



LIVER TRANSPLANTATION PROGRAM

REFERRING PHYSICIAN INFORMATION

Patients treated in the liver transplant program at Mayo Clinic benefit from the collective experience of each specialist on the team, plus the wealth of clinical and research expertise in transplant surgery and medicine. The liver transplant team is committed to working closely with referring physicians to coordinate evaluation, treatment and pre- and post-operative management of transplant patients. To ensure this effective communication, the transplant team maintains 24-hour, 365-day availability.

Milestones

Mayo Clinic Hospital was the first in Arizona to perform a liver transplant from a **living donor**, and recently performed its 100th living donor liver transplant. It was also the site of the state's first **domino transplant** procedure in which two patients can benefit from one donated liver because the liver of the recipient is subsequently transplanted into another patient needing a liver. Because of the shortage of organ donations, this procedure provides much needed organs to patients.

Compared to national averages, patients in the Mayo Clinic Hospital liver transplant program:

- Need fewer blood transfusions
- Have a decreased need for retransplantation
- Experience shorter hospital stays (seven days, as compared to the national average of 11 days)
- Have higher patient and graft survival rates
- Have a lower mortality rate after being placed on the waitlist

Specialists

Under the direction of one of the country's most experienced transplant surgeons, the multidisciplinary transplant team includes specialists in these clinical areas, all located at our two Arizona campuses: Hepatology, Nephrology, Cardiology, Intensive Care Medicine, Infectious Disease, Anesthesiology, Thoracic Disease, Neurology, Radiology, Physical Medicine, and Psychiatry. Laboratory services include Liver Pathology, Hematology, Virology, Immunology and Blood Banking.

Statistics

Mayo Clinic in Arizona is a leader in living donor liver transplants, ranking number 1 in Arizona and number 4 in the nation. It is the largest transplant program overall in the state of Arizona. Since opening in 1999, the Arizona program has the following completion statistics:

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| • Total Transplants (June 1999 – Feb. 2010): | 537 |
| • Living Donor Transplants: | 101 |
| • Living Related Donor: | 49 |
| • Living Unrelated Donor: | 29 |

Candidates for Liver Transplantation

Patients with chronic cholestatic liver disease (i.e., primary biliary cirrhosis and primary sclerosing cholangitis) and chronic active hepatitis may especially benefit from transplantation. Patients with early stage primary liver cancers (hepatocellular carcinoma) are also good candidates for transplant.

Certain conditions may be contraindications for transplant, including: nonhepatic malignancy other than skin cancer; severe pulmonary or cardiovascular disease; cancers that have spread outside the liver; and active alcoholism, use of illicit drugs or smoking.

Clinical Criteria

Liver transplant candidates must have suitable heart-lung function and cannot have medical conditions that limit life expectancy. Our transplant team works closely with our patients to maximize the benefit and reduce the risk of post transplant complications. Patients must be highly motivated to adhere to a strictly regimented medical program before and after surgery. Commitment does not end after the transplant, as postoperative care and follow-up of immunosuppressive medications are lifelong requirements.

Evaluation

Extensive physical, laboratory and psychological evaluations are performed on transplant candidates to ensure proper selection and to rule out other potential treatments. The patient's ability to undergo transplant surgery is also assessed.

Research and Education

Our transplant team focuses on clinical practice, research and education as inseparable elements of providing the best patient care. An active research program and sponsorship of continuing medical education conferences places our transplant team on the forefront of technology, surgical techniques, medication protocols and therapies for liver transplant.

Support Services Available to Patients

Mayo Clinic's support services staff members play a vital role in the liver transplant program. Transplant nurse coordinators actively participate in pre-operative and post-operative patient care and education. Dietitians, research study coordinators, a financial counselor, social workers and clergy also provide guidance for patients and their family members. Mayo Clinic's transplant support group meets regularly, providing patients the chance to share their experiences, concerns and questions with each other.

Arizona Transplant House

The Arizona Transplant House at the Village at Mayo Clinic, offers high quality, affordable accommodations in a caring, home-like environment for transplant patients and their family members/companions so they can foster mutual moral support, fellowship, sharing of experiences and have a successful healthcare experience.

24-hour Telephone Numbers for Referring Physicians

- Transplant Office: 480-342-1010
- Referring Physician Office: 480-301-6539
or 1-866-629-6362

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