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Call toll-free 1-800-544-2500 or
412-647-5800 to speak with a clinician
or email transplant@upmc.edu.

UPMC LIVER TRANSPLANTATION PROGRAM



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The liver transplant program is one of the oldest and largest in the United States
- More than 7,000 adults have received liver transplants since the program's inception
- Expertise in solid-organ, living-donor, and multivisceral transplantation
- National leader in treatment and transplant for primary liver cancers
- Pioneered minimally invasive (laparoscopic) liver resection — more than 300 cases performed

A History of Expertise in Lifesaving Transplants

The Liver Transplantation Program at UPMC was established in 1981. The program distinguishes itself as a worldwide leader with respect to volume and experience in treating a wide range of patients, including those with complex liver disease.

The UPMC Liver Transplantation Program has historically been home to many of the world's most recognized transplant experts. From pioneering surgeons to highly skilled hepatologists and specially trained nurses who provide care before, during, and after surgery, to the researchers who move the field forward, our level of expertise enables us to medically manage patients along the entire spectrum of liver disease. Our clinical expertise and dedicated support resources have allowed our specialists to handle even the most complex cases.

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UPMC LIVER TRANSPLANTATION PROGRAM

As a pioneer in the field of solid-organ transplantation, our program has been consistently challenged with some of the most difficult and complex cases. We offer patients optimal care regardless of their prognosis or the severity of their condition, and have the clinical experience and dedicated support resources to handle such cases. Our surgeons and specialists have used this high level of complex cases to develop new and improved treatments.

To view specific information about our outcomes, including one- and three-year survival rates, please visit the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) at <http://www.ustransplant.org>.

Exploring All Options: A Multidisciplinary Approach

To ensure that each patient is carefully evaluated to determine his or her best course of treatment, many patient referrals start at the UPMC Comprehensive Liver Center (CLC), a collaborative partnership of the UPMC Center for Liver Diseases, Liver Cancer Center, Liver Pancreas Institute, and the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute (STI). The CLC provides patients with a variety of comprehensive medical options that may delay or even prevent the need for transplantation altogether.

The CLC complements the STI by offering convenient access to the most advanced methods of evaluation and medical management of patients diagnosed with acute or chronic liver disease.

While advanced care is provided for acute and end-stage liver disease by STI, the CLC offers options for patients with diseases that may not be immediately life-threatening, but have the potential to compromise or diminish quality of life. Although some of these patients may not qualify for liver transplantation, they still may be considered eligible for other advanced therapies in subspecialty programs and procedures.

Is Your Patient a Candidate?

Candidates for liver transplantation are those patients whose livers no longer function adequately (liver failure). Liver failure can occur suddenly or as a result of infection or complications from certain medications. It also can be the end result of a long-term problem such as chronic hepatitis with cirrhosis.

Better Care through Better Research

UPMC is a leader in immunosuppressive therapy and other cutting-edge research and advancements. Our latest work focuses on reducing or even, in a few cases, eliminating the need for antirejection medication to support long-term outcomes.

Partnering for Life

We take pride in keeping the lines of communication open with patients, families, and referring physicians regarding status, procedures, treatments, and follow-up care. Although a liver transplant is a complex, serious procedure, we maintain a personal, patient-focused approach that takes into consideration the stress and concerns many individuals experience throughout the evaluation, operation, and recovery period.

To ensure optimal continuity of patient care, the UPMC liver transplant team pursues a collaborative approach with referring physicians. UPMC's transplant surgeons and physicians are available for consults 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Throughout the transplant process, a member of the transplant team will continually update the referring physician about the patient's progress. This partnership begins at the time of referral and continues throughout the patient's stay in the hospital and long after they are discharged. After transplant, our patients receive post-operative care from our liver transplant team.

Referring Your Patient

To refer a patient to the UPMC Liver Transplantation Program:

1. Have ready the following information:
 - demographic information (name, date of birth, address, phone number, emergency contacts)
 - original diagnosis, including prior history of medical care and previous medical tests performed (radiologic and pathology reports, inpatient/outpatient records, lab reports, reports of previous transplant evaluations)
 - insurance information
2. Call **1-800-544-2500** or **412-647-5800** to speak with a clinician or e-mail transplant@upmc.edu.
3. Mail, fax, or e-mail all related information and medical records regarding your case to the office.
4. After receipt of medical records and financial clearance, the initial evaluation for your patient will be scheduled.

For more information about referring a patient, visit www.upmc.com/transplant.

Emergency Referrals

When necessary, our team can offer a "fast track" process for referrals, which includes scheduling an evaluation appointment within 72 hours of insurance authorization. We can facilitate the urgent/emergent transfer of fulminant patients, who are in acute liver failure, to our institution for evaluation and medical intervention. UPMC has a highly skilled and dedicated transplant critical care team that is trained to medically manage these patients with life-sustaining support mechanisms through coordination of jugular bulb readings, transjugular liver biopsies, transcranial dopplers, ICP monitoring, and cooling for patients in acute liver failure.

Contact

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Telephone: **412-647-5800** or **1-877-640-6746**
UPMC's 24-hour physician referral service:
1-800-544-2500
Fax: **412-647-5070**
E-mail: transplant@upmc.edu