Advantages for Recipients
There are many advantages for a recipient with a live donor transplant. Most importantly, the recipient can receive a life-saving transplant before he or she becomes critically ill or dies from their liver disease. Additionally, recent studies have shown that, in general, recipients of living-donor liver transplants have better outcomes than recipients of deceased-donor liver transplants.

Making Each Donation Count
The UPMC Living-Donor Transplant Team is a group of clinicians dedicated to the health and well-being of potential living donors. The Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute supports living donors with education and guidance, explaining the risks and benefits of the surgical procedure, protecting their rights and privacy, and ensuring complete confidentiality.

The UPMC Living-Donor Transplant Team consists of:
- hepatologists
- transplant surgeons
- transplant coordinators
- social workers
- psychiatrists

Who is a Good Candidate to be a Living Donor?
A living donor should be between the ages of 18 to 55, in good health, and have a blood type compatible with that of the recipient. The donor’s sole reason for donating must be an unselfish wish to help the recipient. Interested donors are carefully evaluated to select only those who can safely donate. Individuals interested in becoming a living donor should come forward to be evaluated.
Living-Donor Liver Transplantation

These clinicians will educate potential living donors about the procedure and determine whether donation is the best decision option for himself or herself. This team is an advocate solely for living donors and acts completely independently of the needs of transplant recipients.

In addition to providing this lifesaving option, UPMC’s transplant specialists have made each donor’s contribution more likely to be successful. Thorough pretransplant evaluations of both the living donor and potential recipient help ensure favorable outcomes and a low incidence of complications.

When is it Appropriate to Refer Patients for a Living-Donor Liver Transplant?
Early referral for a liver transplant is key. It allows our dedicated team to provide comprehensive assessments and determine if living-donor liver transplant is an option.

A2ALL
Our living-donor liver transplant team is committed to the well-being of both living donors and recipients. We are pleased that Abhinav Humar, MD, chief, Division of Transplantation, UPMC, serves as principal investigator on the National Institutes of Health’s Adult-to-Adult Living Donor Liver Transplantation Cohort Study (A2ALL). This multicenter, national project will investigate the experience of a group of patients eligible for living-donor liver transplantation, focusing on the factors influencing outcomes of living-donor liver transplants. The impact of donation on the living donor, including, surgical, biological, and psychosocial effects, will be reviewed. In addition to vital clinical issues, A2ALL also will investigate important research issues such as liver regeneration, liver cancer, and infectious hepatitis.

Partnering For Life
We take pride in keeping the lines of communication open with patients, families, and referring physicians regarding patient status, procedures, treatments, and follow-up care. Although transplantation is a complex, serious procedure, we maintain a personal, patient-focused approach that takes into consideration the stress and concerns of many individuals’ experience. As part of this commitment, the dedicated living-donor liver transplant team provides patient support throughout the evaluation, operation, and recovery period.

To ensure optimal continuity of patient care, the UPMC living-donor 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. After discharge from the hospital, living donors have their initial postoperative appointment with the transplant surgeon one to two weeks after the surgery. 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 postoperative follow-up from our dedicated living-donor liver transplantation team and return at three months, six months, one year, and two years for well-visits.

Contact
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UPMC Montefiore, 7 South
3459 Fifth Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Attn: UPMC Liver Transplantation Program

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

UPMC’s transplant programs are among the world’s largest and are internationally renowned for their influence on the field of transplantation. For nearly 30 years, UPMC has been providing care to adult and pediatric transplant patients through services at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute; the UPMC Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery; and the Children’s Hillman Center for Pediatric Transplantation. Today, UPMC has performed more than 17,000 transplants, including heart, lung, intestinal, kidney, liver, pancreas, and multiple-organ transplants, along with heart assist device implantation. UPMC also partners with the University of Pittsburgh to advance basic science and clinically applied research, as well as to support the teaching and training of transplant specialists worldwide.

For more information about UPMC Transplantation Services, visit our website at www.UPMC.com/Transplant.