PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

• Program inception: 1990
• More than 500 intestinal and multivisceral transplants on both adult and pediatric patients have been performed at UPMC, representing more than 25 percent of the worldwide total.
• UPMC has the longest worldwide adult survivor, who is now beyond the 20-year milestone and enjoying excellent quality of life.
• Our team developed and standardized many of the procedures currently used by transplant centers around the world.

Leading The Way in Intestinal Health

The Intestinal Rehabilitation and Transplantation Center (IRTC) at UPMC distinguishes itself as a worldwide leader, offering a range of services for patients diagnosed with intestinal failure.

The specialists at the IRTC use state-of-the-art medical and surgical treatments to successfully treat patients, restoring his or her lifestyle without the need for intravenous nutrition. Many of our patients have experienced success with rehabilitation services, while others with more advanced diseases benefit from transplantation. Patients from both of these groups have gone on to experience greatly improved quality of life, enjoying a normal oral diet.

Historically, our outcomes have been above national averages. 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. Our surgeons and specialists have used this high level of complex cases to develop new and improved treatments.

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Isolated intestine (small bowel) transplantation is offered to patients with diffuse gastrointestinal disorders commonly associated with gut failure and/or life-threatening neoplasm. The transplant includes the stomach, duodenum, pancreas, and intestine with or without the liver.

Is Your Patient a Candidate? Candidates for intestinal transplantation include those patients with irreversible intestinal failure due to Crohn’s disease, vascular occlusion, abdominal trauma, or other gut disorders combined with organ failure.

Research that Continues to Improve Patient Care UPMC is a leader in immunosuppressive therapy and other cutting-edge research and advancements. Our latest work focuses on reducing or even eliminating, in a few cases, the need for antirejection medications to support long-term outcomes. This includes pioneering recipient pretreatment (preconditioning) to prevent initial rejection, while reducing the need for high doses of antirejection medications with long-term follow-up.

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 transplantation 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 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 and in the hospital and long after they are discharged. After transplant, our patients receive postoperative care from our transplant surgeons.

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.