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.
- 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.

(continued)
UPMC INTESTINAL REHABILITATION AND TRANSPLANTATION CENTER

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.srtr.org.

Multidisciplinary Approach with a Single Focus
To ensure that each patient is carefully evaluated to determine his or her best course of treatment, we utilize a multidisciplinary team approach at the RTC in collaboration with many ancillary services at UPMC. The team involves worldwide renowned gastrointestinal and transplant surgeons, academic gastroenterologists, nutritionists, pharmacists, and other medical staff that provide these complex patients with medical and social support.

Remarkable Success in Rehabilitation
Gastrointestinal rehabilitation means restoration of nutritional autonomy with an unrestricted oral diet and elimination of the need for intravenous nutritional support. This has recently been achieved with more successful outcomes by surgical autologous reconstruction combined with a special diet regimen and pharmacologic manipulation of the gut with enterocyte tropic factors such as growth hormone and most recently GLP-2. The surgical approach is tailored according to patients' needs, including restoring continuity of the gut, repair of enteric fistulae, and lengthening procedures, such as serial transverse enteroplasty (STEP).

Intestinal Transplantation
When rehabilitation alone is not successful, there are three main types of intestinal transplantation that could be offered to the patient at UPMC:

- **Isolated intestine (small bowel) transplantation** — People who are born with or develop irreversible intestinal failure become unable to digest food well enough to eat or be fed through a tube. As a result, they require total parenteral nutrition (TPN). For those with organ failure limited to the small bowel only, isolated intestine transplantation can be a lifesaving and life-enhancing option.

- **Combined liver and intestine transplantation** — This type of transplant 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.

- **Multivisceral transplantation** — This type of transplant includes stomach, duodenum, pancreas, and intestine with or without the liver. It 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.

In 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.

Comprehensive Digestive Care
Our Digestive Disorders Center offers treatment options for people with all forms of gastrointestinal disorders, including those who may not be eligible for transplantation. Digestive experts craft individualized treatments that can restore quality of life and even save lives. Our researchers actively look for new and better ways to diagnose, treat, and understand digestive disorders.

Collaborative, Quality Care
Our integrated approach to diagnosing and treating gastrointestinal diseases means high-quality, coordinated care for you.

Our doctors; coordinate all aspects of your testing and treatment; communicate with your referring physician, providing a seamless continuum of care, and make direct referrals to UPMC's digestive health centers of excellence, if you have a severe or complicated digestive disease and require a more specialized team of health care experts.

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.

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Referring Your Patient
To refer a patient to the UPMC Intestinal Rehabilitation and Transplantation Center:

1. Have 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 according to case. This includes scheduling an evaluation with UPMC specialists and transplant critical care team that is trained to medically manage these patients with life-sustaining measures.

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 transfer of patients who are in acute organ 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 measures.

Contact
Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute
UPMC Montefiore, 7 South
3459 Fifth Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Attn: UPMC Intestinal Rehabilitation and Transplantation Center

Telephone: 412-647-5800 or 1-877-640-6746
UPMC’s 24-hour physician referral service: 1-800-544-2500
Fax: 412-647-0362
E-mail: transplant@upmc.edu

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