

LIVING DONOR Liver Transplantation

A GUIDE TO THE BENEFITS OF A LIVING DONOR LIVER TRANSPLANT.



Living Donor Liver Transplant Program at Nebraska Medicine

PH: 402.559.5000 TF: 800.401.4444

Learn more about the Transplant Center:
NebraskaMed.com/Transplant

About Living Donor Transplants

Living donor liver transplants are accomplished when healthy individuals agree to donate a portion of their liver to those listed for liver transplantation.

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LIVING DONOR LIVER
TRANSPLANTS HAVE BEEN
PERFORMED SINCE THE
PROGRAM'S INCEPTION



BENEFITS OF LIVING DONOR LIVER TRANSPLANTATION

- There are not enough deceased donors to meet the need. Each day, the number of patients in need of a transplant grows
- The long waiting period for a deceased donor liver is lessened
- Surgery becomes a planned event for the patient and donor, optimizing the chance for a successful transplant

Factoring Risk

When considering any major surgery, there are always risks involved. These risks are minimized by complete and thorough evaluation before surgery and follow-up care. The donors are usually discharged from the hospital within five to seven days following surgery and can return to normal activities within four to six weeks.

There is minimal risk of major or long-term health problems for the donor.

In the majority of cases, all costs related to the donation, including evaluation, testing and surgery are paid for by the recipient's insurance.

TYPES OF LIVING DONOR TRANSPLANTS

- **Living-related Donors**
Individuals who are biologically related to the transplant recipient may donate
- **Living-unrelated Donors**
Individuals who are not biologically related to the transplant recipient may donate, including a spouse, friend, neighbor, co-worker, church member or in-law
- **Anonymous Donors**
Individuals who offer to donate to an individual who is active on the waiting list but is someone they do not know



DONOR EVALUATION PROCESS

Potential living liver donors will undergo an initial evaluation arranged by a living donor coordinator, which includes:

- An explanation of the donor evaluation process
- A review of the donor's medical history
- Blood tests to determine blood type and compatibility with the potential recipient
- Blood and urine tests, along with other diagnostic tests (EKG, chest X-ray, MRI of the abdomen) to determine normal liver function as well as the overall health of a potential donor
- Meetings with the independent donor advocate, a surgeon and the members of the transplant team to discuss possible risks, benefits and desire to proceed with donation

WHO CAN DONATE?

All potential donors must:

- Donate voluntarily, without coercion or inducement
- Be healthy with normal liver function
- Be over 19 years of age

*All tests will be reviewed by the donor transplant team and must be determined as satisfactory prior to accepting someone as a donor. If you are interested in becoming a living donor, please call the transplant office at **402.559.5000** or at **800.401.4444**.*

