

ABOUT THE **METHODIST TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE**

The Methodist Transplant Institute at Methodist University Hospital and Le Bonheur Children's Hospital is a leader in the field of organ transplantation. Our highly skilled, multidisciplinary team provides comprehensive, patient-centered liver and kidney transplant care for children and adults, as well as adult pancreas transplantation. We also offer living donor kidney transplantation as a treatment option.

Our transplant team offers specialized, multidisciplinary, comprehensive care and strives to improve the quality of life and life expectancy for our transplant patients. We strive for excellence in surgical techniques and meticulous post-operative care. Our program has been offering hope to patients with end-stage liver disease since our first liver transplant in 1982.

QUESTIONS & REFERRALS

If you are interested in liver transplantation, talk to your doctor about referring you to our program for evaluation.

For more information, call **901.478.9183** or visit our website at **www.methodisthealth.org/transplant**

Methodist℠ Transplant Institute

www.methodisthealth.org/transplant

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Liver Transplantation



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WHAT IS A LIVER TRANSPLANT?

A liver transplant may be recommended as a treatment option when your liver can no longer perform its normal vital functions and there is no other way to correct the problem. A liver transplant involves a surgery to replace the native liver with a new liver or portion of a liver.

Our team of trained Transplant Hepatologists carefully evaluates all patients to determine the best course of treatment for patients with liver disease. Should transplant be an option for you, expect patient-and family-centered care throughout your transplant journey.

WHO IS A CANDIDATE?

With a referral to our transplant program, patients complete a thorough evaluation to determine whether transplant is the best treatment option. Those with acute liver failure and those with chronic liver failure due to diseases such as viral hepatitis, fatty liver, immune disorders, liver cancer or biliary cirrhosis may be candidates for liver transplant.

The patient will meet with our multidisciplinary transplant team for education and evaluation. A medical work up will also be completed to ensure the safety of this surgical procedure.

DECEASED DONOR LIVER TRANSPLANTATION

It is not possible for everyone to receive a liver from a live donor and most patients are placed on a national waiting list for a deceased donor liver.

When an otherwise healthy person experiences a traumatic event that causes brain death, the undamaged organs may be saved and donated for transplantation.

HOW DOES THE WAIT LIST WORK?

Once our team determines you are a candidate for transplantation, you will be placed on the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) national waiting list. Patients listed for a liver transplant are tested and assigned a Model End Stage Liver Disease (MELD) score. This score is an indication of the liver patient's health. Patients with higher MELD scores have higher priority for transplant on the waiting list.

As you wait for a compatible organ, please maintain contact with your transplant team. Our team will notify you when a liver is available and will inform you on where to go and what to bring for your transplant surgery.

"All the doctors, nurses, everybody that took care of me were like family."

- James, *Liver Transplant Recipient*



James and **Elaine** both received liver transplants at the **Methodist Transplant Institute.**

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

When called in for transplantation, you will meet with our team and complete testing prior to your surgery. After your transplant surgery, you can plan for your hospital stay. During your hospital stay we will teach you about your transplant medications, carefully manage your pain and diet, and give instructions on your follow up a care.

After receiving your new organ, you can expect many outpatient clinic visits, lab appointments and medications to ensure your liver will last a very long time. It is important to remember that liver transplant is a treatment option, not a cure. You will need to maintain compliance with your post transplant medical regimen to ensure the best outcomes for your new liver.

"I was treated very kindly and the overall care was great. Nothing compares to it."

- Elaine, *Liver Transplant Recipient*

