

Where World-Class Expertise  
and Genuine Compassion  
Come Together



**AT THE FOREFRONT**  
**OF LIVER TRANSPLANT CARE**



**THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF CHICAGO  
HOSPITALS**

AT THE FOREFRONT OF MEDICINE®



**“The University of Chicago Hospitals is top-notch. The transplant staff are incredible—from the receptionists and technicians to the surgeons and nurses. There’s a real family rapport among the staff, which made the whole living donor process easier to deal with.”**

Tim, a 41-year-old living liver donor

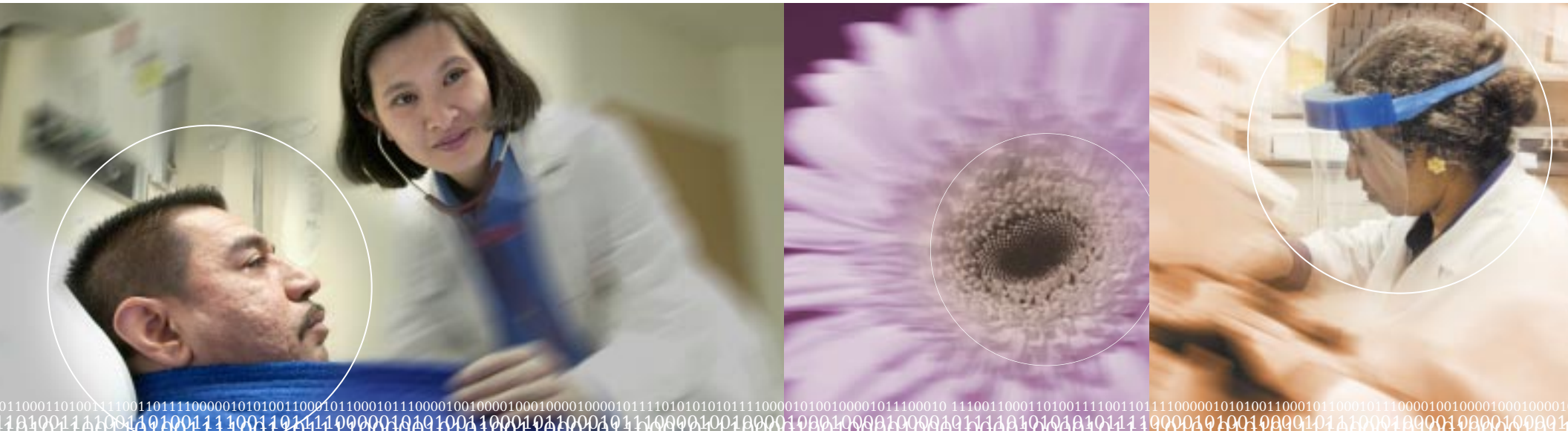
Our liver transplant patients also benefit from the skilled care of our respected hepatologists. Year after year, the University of Chicago Hospitals’ gastroenterology/liver program is ranked among the top programs in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*. Our liver specialists have extensive experience in treating all types of liver problems, including unusual or complex diseases. Clinical trials of experimental drugs for hepatitis and other diseases give our patients access to therapies that may not be available elsewhere.

Our hepatologists are dedicated to assisting patients with liver disease stay as healthy as possible. For instance, some cancer tumors in the liver can be shrunk or removed. Using minimally invasive approaches, our interventional

radiologists can inject chemotherapy or other agents into the liver to reduce tumor size. Liver transplant may also be a possibility for some individuals with liver cancer.

Our physicians and surgeons work side-by-side with specially trained transplant nurses who provide unmatched expertise before and after a transplant. Our team also includes a transplant pharmacist, social worker, financial counselor, and dietitian who work solely with transplant patients.

One of our patients put it best: “It takes a lot of pressure off when you have confidence in your doctors and in the hospital.” When you come to the University of Chicago Hospitals for transplant care, you can be certain that you are in expert hands. Another reassuring fact: if you or a loved one develops other medical problems, such as diabetes or heart disease, you will have access to hundreds of other knowledgeable experts. The hospital is home to some of the world’s most respected specialists in cancer, kidney disease, heart disease, and other health problems.



## ...and the Most Advanced Treatments Can Be Found

The University of Chicago Hospitals is an academic medical center, which means that many of our physicians conduct research as well as provide patient care. This approach gives patients a major advantage: you may have access to new therapies and medicines before they are available at other hospitals.

For instance, the University of Chicago Hospitals has been instrumental in testing a liver assist device that allows patients with acute liver failure to survive long enough to receive a liver transplant, or perhaps even recover without a transplant.

The Hospitals is also considered a leader in the prevention and treatment of organ rejection. We have helped refine many important anti-rejection medications, such as OKT3, which has been a mainstay immunosuppression drug for more than a decade. The science of immunosuppression has become so advanced that organ rejection is uncommon in liver transplant patients who take their medications as directed. Our physicians and researchers are now focusing on the next challenge: preventing and treating liver disease and other problems that may develop in transplant recipients, such as cardiovascular disease and chronic rejection.



## Making Transplant a Viable Option for More People

Because of the level of expertise available at the University of Chicago Hospitals, our expert surgeons and physicians commonly provide care for patients with complex medical problems—saving or enhancing lives.

We also have a comprehensive program for potential transplant patients who have experienced problems with alcohol and/or drugs. Our addiction specialists and social workers can provide the individualized treatment these patients need to abstain from substance abuse.

In addition, our transplant team is considered one of the most experienced in the world in multiple-organ transplants. The first successful heart-liver-kidney transplant in the world was performed at the University of Chicago Hospitals.

## Increasing the Number of Organs Available

In the United States there are simply not enough donor livers available for transplant. To help ease this shortage, we have made major efforts on several fronts to increase the number of organs available.

Our surgeons pioneered several surgical approaches that have helped increase the number of deceased donor livers available for transplantation. We were the first hospital in the United States to perform successful segmental and split liver transplants. Both of these surgeries take advantage of the fact that a portion of the liver will grow after being transplanted, taking on the workload of a full-size liver. In a segmental transplant, a portion of a donor liver is implanted in the recipient. In a split liver transplant, one donor liver is divided and implanted in two recipients. These procedures are primarily used in children, but they can help adult transplant patients, too.

In 1989, the University of Chicago Hospitals performed the first living donor liver transplant in the nation. The recipient is now a healthy teenager. Since then, we have performed over a hundred successful living donor liver surgeries, mostly to help young children in need of a liver. Before being allowed to donate, potential donors consult with numerous medical experts and must undergo a thorough medical exam. Our primary concern is always the safety of the donor and the transplant recipient. Our transplant specialists have written several publications on the ethics of living donor liver transplants in adults, helping define when living donation is medically and ethically appropriate.

Our organ procurement team can retrieve cadaveric donor livers very quickly—even from many miles away. Our surgeons are also helping to develop a device to preserve solid organs for transplant, making it possible to preserve organs for longer periods of time before transplantation.



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## Experience and Compassion Go Hand in Hand

We realize that from the outside, the University of Chicago Hospitals can seem rather large. But once you step inside, you'll feel like it is a small, comfortable place.

All of our liver transplant patients are followed by a specially trained nurse—a pre-transplant coordinator—before their transplant. This nurse will care for you and your family until your transplant. After your transplant you will meet other specially trained nurses—post-transplant coordinators. You will always have someone to call or turn to if you have problems or concerns.

We strive to become close to each and every one of our patients. This means asking you about your family and how you are all handling life before or after transplant. It means getting laboratory tests back in a timely manner so we can quickly identify and treat any problems. It also involves providing you with the education you need to understand how to care for yourself after a transplant. We are very proud that our patients feel that we care about them as people, and that we look after our patients' overall health and well being—not just their organs.

**“Everyone at the University of Chicago Hospitals is just wonderful. I can’t say enough about them. Being a nurse myself, I’ve seen a lot of hospitals, and I would definitely give the University of Chicago Hospitals my highest recommendation. The staff were great. You don’t feel like you’re just another person. They treat everyone like they’re very special.”**

Dorothy, a 53-year-old liver transplant patient

## Our Transplant Process

The possibility of a liver transplant provides hope for people with severe liver disease. But the whole process can seem overwhelming or frightening. That's why we take it one step at a time.

### Preparation

- *Consult with one of our liver disease specialists*
- *Meet the nurse coordinator and learn about the transplant process*
- *Verify your transplant insurance benefits with our financial coordinator*
- *Complete the blood work and diagnostic tests necessary for your transplant evaluation*
- *Meet with the social worker to discuss how you and your family can best prepare and cope throughout the transplant process*
- *Meet with the dietitian to learn how to optimize your health through smart nutritional choices*
- *Meet the surgeons to review the operation and care after transplant*
- *Become listed on the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) wait list after your evaluation is completed*
- *Continue to keep all of your scheduled follow-up appointments*
- *Call the transplant team with any changes in your status or concerns*
- *Attend the transplant support group*

### The Transplant

- *Arrive at the hospital when you have been notified that a potential liver has been identified for you*
- *Undergo surgery*
- *Recover from the operation*
- *Meet with the nurse coordinator, dietitian, social worker, pharmacist, and physical therapist to learn about proper recovery and the care of your new liver*

### Afterwards

- *Follow up as directed at all clinic appointments*
- *Take all your medications, as directed*
- *Call with any questions or concerns*

### How to Contact Us

To learn more about liver transplants at the University of Chicago Hospitals, call 1-866-904-1600. You can also visit our Web site at [www.uchospitals.edu](http://www.uchospitals.edu).

The University of Chicago Hospital also performs kidney, pancreas, heart, and bone marrow transplants. For information on these other transplant programs, call 1-888-UCH-0200.

**The University of Chicago Hospitals**

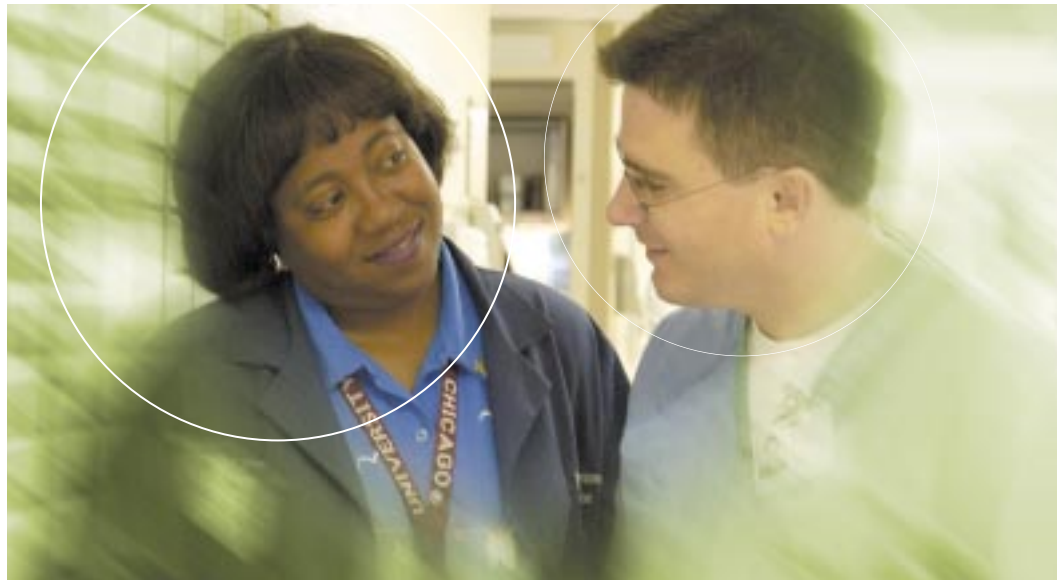
5841 South Maryland Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60637-1470

1-866-904-1600



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## Cadaveric Donor Transplants

There are over 17,000 people in the United States waiting for a liver transplant, but only about 5,000 cadaveric donor livers become available each year. National guidelines have been established by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) to make sure that donor livers are distributed appropriately.

Once the transplant team at the University of Chicago Hospitals determines that a patient will benefit from a liver transplant and a work-up has been completed, the patient's name will be registered on a computerized waiting list through UNOS.

Currently UNOS uses the MELD (Model for End Stage Liver Disease) scoring system for prioritizing patients. Patients with higher MELD scores receive donor livers before patients with lower scores. MELD scores range from 6 (less ill) to 40 (gravely ill).

A patient's MELD score is calculated using a mathematical formula that considers the results of three blood tests: bilirubin, prothrombin time, and creatinine. Each patient's MELD score will probably change while they are on the waiting list. If a patient's liver disease gets better, his or her MELD score may decrease. If it gets worse, the MELD score may increase.

In addition to the MELD system, other factors, such as body size and blood type, also affect how long a patient must wait for a donor liver. Talk with the transplant team for further information.



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## Living Donor Transplants

Living donor transplants occur when the surgeon removes a portion of the donor's liver and implants it into the transplant patient. This surgery is possible because the liver has an amazing ability to regenerate. Within months of surgery, both the donor's and the transplant patient's small livers will grow to assume the work of full-sized livers.

University of Chicago surgeons performed the first successful living donor liver transplant in the world in 1989. Until recently, we were one of the only medical centers in the country performing this life-saving surgery.

Most of our living donor surgeries help a young child who needs a liver. A parent or other adult gives part of his or her liver to the child. Adult-to-adult living donor liver transplants are beginning to be performed more frequently with promising results. Potential living donors must undergo a thorough evaluation before they are allowed to donate.

For more information on living donor liver transplants and other transplant options, call 1-866-904-1600.



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