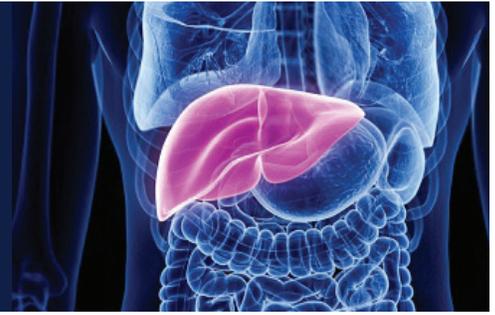


# Liver Transplant Program

[ucsfhealth.org/liver-transplant](https://ucsfhealth.org/liver-transplant)



**13,000**

people in the U.S.  
in need of  
liver transplant<sup>1</sup>



**8 weeks**

how long it takes  
for a living donor's liver  
to return to normal

## LIVER TRANSPLANTS AT UCSF

**#1** IN THE  
WEST

number of living donor  
liver transplants performed<sup>2</sup>

**#3** IN THE  
U.S.

number of liver transplants  
performed<sup>3</sup>

## OFFERING LIVER TRANSPLANT PATIENTS OPTIMAL CARE

With more than 13,000 people in the United States with end-stage liver disease awaiting a liver transplant, UCSF has made liver transplantation services a high priority. Since 1988, UCSF has transplanted more than 4,000 livers, and has concurrently developed innovative procedures to expand the number of eligible recipients. Because the need is so great, [UCSF's Liver Transplant Program](#) has a focus on living donor liver transplants and encourages prospective recipients to seek a living donor whenever possible.

## KEY FACTS ABOUT UCSF'S LIVER TRANSPLANT PROGRAM

- Our team performed 176 transplants (adult and pediatric) – 149 with deceased donor livers and 27 from living donors in 2020.
- UCSF has performed adult-to-child living donor liver transplants since 1992, and adult-to-adult living donor liver transplants since 2000. The transplant team has completed more than 450 living donor liver transplants through August 2021 – more than any other center in the West.
- UCSF is one of the leading medical centers in the U.S. performing transplants with living donors, and the only center in Northern California with an active adult-to-adult living donor transplant program.
- Led by Francis Yao, MD – a world-renowned expert in the field of liver transplantation and hepatocellular carcinoma – our team developed expanded criteria for performing transplants on liver cancer patients. The UCSF criteria's boundaries are broader than those of the Milan criteria, thereby enabling broader eligibility. These criteria have now been adopted by transplant centers worldwide.
- With liver transplant clinics throughout the Bay Area and Central California – including Fremont, Santa Clara, Walnut Creek, Fresno and Modesto – potential transplant recipients can receive care locally.
- UCSF serves a diverse transplant population, according to 2020 data:<sup>4</sup>
  - Transplant wait list candidates who are white comprise half (48 percent) of those on the UCSF waiting list compared with more than two-thirds (67 percent) nationally.
  - Almost one-third (29 percent) are Hispanic on UCSF's waiting list compared with less than one-fifth (19 percent) nationally.

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## INFORMATION / REFERRALS

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## UCSF LIVER TRANSPLANT OUTCOMES

According to data from the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients' recent outcomes report:

- 96.58 percent of all adult liver transplant patients (n = 322) had a functioning graft at one-year post-transplant, compared with 92.14 percent nationally – an outcome that is almost 5 percent better than expected (based on the reporting period from January 1, 2018, to March 12, 2020.)
- 97.77 percent of adult liver transplant patients, not including retransplants (n = 310), were alive at one-year post-transplant, compared with 93.92 percent nationally. This outcome is 4 percent better than expected and places UCSF in the top tier of the outcome rating system (according to data reported from January 1, 2018, to March 12, 2020.)
- The median hospital stay for UCSF liver transplant recipients (deceased donors, n = 144) is 8 days compared with the national median of 10 days.<sup>5</sup>

## KEY FACTS ABOUT LIVING DONOR LIVER TRANSPLANTS

- There are not enough deceased donor livers to meet the demand, and a living donor transplant has many advantages over a deceased donor transplant.
- A living donor reduces the wait time for a transplant, thus increasing the chance for survival.
- A living donor allows the recipient to get a transplant while healthier, because they don't have to wait for a high MELD (Model for End-Stage Liver Disease) score before being transplanted.
- A living donor allows the recipient to plan for surgery, rather than rushing to the hospital when informed that a matching deceased donor liver is available.
- Transplant recipients and their living donor do not need to be related.
- Ideally, the donor should have a blood type that is compatible with the recipient's, but a new program could allow an incompatible donor to "swap" with another pair to achieve a match for transplant.

## WHAT POTENTIAL LIVING LIVER DONORS SHOULD KNOW

Based on the experience at UCSF, medical data and policies:

- The donor's liver grows back to its original size in about 8 weeks.
- A liver donor's expected time in the hospital is 4-7 days.
- Most donors can return to work after 4-8 weeks, depending on their occupation.
- Donors may be reimbursed for lost wages and other expenses.
- California law allows most employees to take up to 60 days' leave of absence, with pay, for the purpose of organ donation.<sup>6</sup>
- UCSF provides potential donors with a donor advocate who is not connected to the transplant team.
- In a survey of 107 liver donors, more than 97 percent (n = 104) said they would be willing to donate again, and 2.8 percent (n = 3) said they were not sure. None said they would not.<sup>7</sup>

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## NEED FOR LIVING DONOR CHAMPIONS

UCSF urges physicians to encourage their prospective transplant patients to advocate on their own behalf to find an appropriate living donor. Patients can also engage friends and family members who may not be able to donate themselves but who can become an advocate for identifying a living donor. [Learn more about UCSF's living liver donation transplant program.](#)

### References:

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7. Humphreville VR, Radosevich DM, Humar A, et al. Long-term health-related quality of life after living liver donation. *Liver Transpl.* 2016;22(1):53-62.

## OUR TEAM

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