

ADULT-TO-ADULT LIVING DONOR LIVER TRANSPLANTATION



Living liver donor recipient with her friend and donor



UWMC Liver Transplant Surgical Team performing a liver transplant

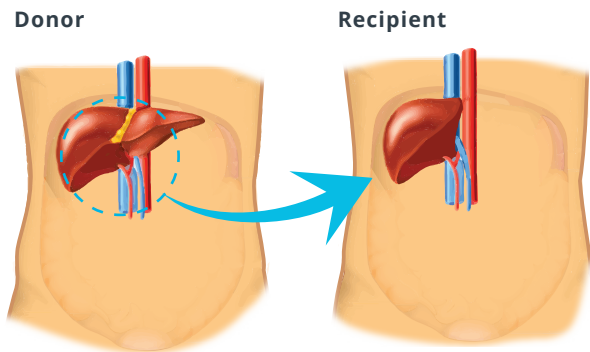
UW Medicine is a designated **Living Donor Liver Transplant (LDLT) Center** by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), the organization that administers U.S. policies on organ transplantation and procurement.

UW Medicine is among a select group of liver transplant centers nationwide certified to perform LDLT and is the only liver transplant center in the Pacific Northwest currently performing adult-to-adult LDLT.

There is a severe shortage of deceased liver donors in the U.S. There are ~14,000 people waiting for deceased donor liver transplant in the U.S., but only ~7000 patients receive a deceased donor liver each year. This means that waiting times on the liver transplant list can be very long (months to years), and, due to the deceased donor organ shortage, ~1400 people die each year while waiting on the liver transplant list, and ~1200 are removed from the waiting list due to being too ill.

Fortunately, LDLT offers select recipients another option for receiving a life-prolonging liver transplant.

In LDLT, a piece of liver is removed from a healthy living donor and transplanted into a recipient, after the recipient's diseased liver is removed. LDLT is possible



because of the liver's unique ability to regenerate in both the donor and the recipient. Regeneration of the liver occurs over a short time period, usually within only eight weeks. The piece of the donor's liver that remains in the donor grows back quickly to its original size. Living liver donors are usually able to return to their normal activities by ~12 weeks after surgery.

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Recipient Survival and Clinical Outcomes are very good and comparable to, if not better than, deceased donor liver transplant

LDLT offers additional advantages over deceased donor liver transplant, as well:

- Shorter waiting time on the liver transplant list due to not having to “wait in line” for a deceased donor liver to become available
- Due to shorter waiting times, LDLT also provides opportunities for recipients to get a liver transplant before they become very ill (often critically ill) with their liver disease, so that the recipient is stronger and in better physical condition for the surgery
- The liver from the living donor typically is of excellent quality
- The surgery can be scheduled electively, allowing the donor and recipient more time to prepare for surgery

UW Medicine’s Liver Transplant Program provides comprehensive care for patients with liver disease and liver failure, including those who will require organ transplantation. Physicians refer people to our program from across the Pacific Northwest and beyond – a testament to our staff’s experience and our patients’ outcomes. UW Medicine transplant doctors, surgeons and other transplant team members already have extensive experience with living-donor liver transplant from adults to children. Additionally, our center has the region’s largest experience with deceased donor liver transplantation, performing over 2,000 liver transplants since our program’s inception in 1990.