

Transplant



An organ transplant is a surgical procedure to remove an organ or part of an organ from a living person and place it in another person whose organs that are no longer working properly.

The alternative of organ donation from living donors has been increasing due to the growing need of organs for transplantation and the insufficiency of organs available from deceased donors.

Living kidney donation is the most common type of living donor transplant. People can donate one of their two kidneys, and the remaining kidney can perform the necessary functions. Living donors can also donate a part of the liver, and the remaining part will regenerate, growing back to almost its original size and performing its normal function.

Kidney and liver transplants are the most common types of living donor organ procedures, but living people can also donate tissue for transplant such as:

- Skin
- Bone marrow
- Hematopoietic cells (stem cells) that have been damaged or destroyed by disease, drugs, or radiation.

Types of living organ donation

There are two types of living organ donation.

1. Direct donation

It is the most common type of living donor organ donation. The direct organ donor gives to a specific recipient for transplant. The donor can be:

- A first degree relative such as parent, sibling, adult child.
- Other biological relatives such as: uncles, cousins.

- A person who is not biologically related to the transplant candidate, such as a spouse or partner.
- A person who has heard about the candidate's need for a transplant.

2. Indirect donation

In nondirected living organ donation, also known as good Samaritan or altruistic donation, the donor does not name the recipient of the donated organ.

Compatibility is based on medical need and blood type.

In some cases, the donor may choose not to know the recipient of the organ. In other cases, the donor and recipient may meet, if both agree and if transplant center policy allows it.

How to make an informed decision

Making the decision to donate an organ is a personal act that deserves reflection and consideration, both have risks and benefits. Talk about your decision with friends, family, or people you trust.

Social and Emotional Aspect

For recommendations, tools, and resources on how you and your family can deal with emotional and physical concerns that arise during and after medical treatment, please visit your primary care physician or contact the following phone lines:

Medical Advice Line

1-844-337-7801

TTY- 1-844-347-7804

References: Living donor transplant. 2021/04/13.
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