

Kidney Transplant



770

Number of transplants performed since program's inception in 1965 (through December 2021)

34

Number of transplants in CY21

98%

One-year post-transplant patient survival

(Based on 53 patients performed 01/01/2019–03/12/2020 and 06/30/2021–06/30/2021)

98%

One-year graft survival

(Based on 57 patients performed 01/01/2019–03/12/2020 and 06/30/2021–06/30/2021)

(Source: Scientific Registry for Transplant Recipients, July 2022 Report)



Cincinnati Children's is ranked #6 in Nephrology and #3 in the nation among Honor Roll hospitals.

The Kidney Transplant Team at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center provides comprehensive, multidisciplinary care for pediatric patients with challenging diseases of the kidneys and lower urinary tract. Founded in 1965, our program performed the first kidney transplant in Ohio and is among the busiest in the country. As a result of our excellent outcomes and reputation, patients and families from all over the world come to Cincinnati Children's for their kidney transplants and related care.

HOW WE'RE DIFFERENT

The Kidney Transplant Team is one of the most experienced in the United States. Our specialists represent a broad diversity of knowledge and experience, and work in concert to deliver coordinated, high-quality care. Our multidisciplinary team includes:

- Nephrologists
- Transplant Surgeons
- Transplant Coordinators (recipient and donor)
- Urologists
- Pharmacologists
- Dietitians
- Psychologists
- Social worker
- Financial Counselor

Our surgical expertise and focus on pre- and post-transplant care are key factors in helping us achieve excellent outcomes. These outcomes are significant because we treat patients whose conditions are so challenging and complex that they could not receive a transplant at many other centers.

- We care for a complex patient population, including children weighing as little as 20 pounds, those who have already undergone or who might need a transplant of another solid organ (e.g., liver, lung, or heart), patients who require desensitization or might have recurrent disease and patients requiring lower urinary tract reconstruction.
- Our team developed biomarkers to identify and validate which patients are at risk for transplant dysfunction.
- We work closely with our living donor program and the National Kidney Registry to perform transplantation preemptively to avoid dialysis, when possible.
- Cincinnati Children's is a leader in identifying many heart disease risk factors for children who have had a kidney transplant, and we systematically track and treat these risk factors in our patients.
- We work closely with the Cincinnati Children's Fetal Care Center to develop treatment plans for babies diagnosed in utero with complex and rare congenital conditions impacting kidney development and function. Our team provides seamless and comprehensive multidisciplinary care as well as family counseling beginning before birth.
- In 2016 the Kidney Transplant Program at Cincinnati Children's initiated the Improving Renal Outcomes Collaborative (IROC), an organization now including 40 premier kidney transplant programs in the United States. These programs share data, learn from every patient encounter and collaborate in multi-center quality improvement focused on improving the health, longevity and quality of life of children with kidney transplants throughout the country.

TREATMENT TEAM

Nephrology and Hypertension

Prasad Devarajan, MD
*Director, Division of Nephrology
and Hypertension*

David K. Hooper, MD, MS
*Medical Director,
Kidney Transplantation*

Charles Varnell, Jr., MD, MS
*Assistant Medical Director,
Kidney Transplantation*

Stefanie Benoit, MD, MPH
Donna Claes, MD, MS

Elif Erkan, MD, MS

Francisco Flores, MD

Stuart Goldstein, MD

Mark Mitsnefes, MD, MS

Meredith Schuh, MD

Hillarey Stone, MD

Kidney Transplant Surgery

Alexander Bondoc, MD
Surgical Director

Greg Tiao, MD

Nursing

Rebecca Rengering, RN
Clinical Director

Tricia Soulas, RN
Transplant Coordinator

Julie Zigmund, RN
Transplant Coordinator

Emma Trotta, RN
Transplant Coordinator

Nutrition Therapy

Sydney Huesman, RD

Ashleigh Libs, RD

Mary Kate McCarthy, RD

Pharmacy

Danielle Lazear, PharmD

Leanna Darland, PharmD

Social Workers

Carlie Coz, LSW

April Fong, LSW

CONTACT US

For more information or to
make an appointment:

Phone: 513-636-4531
Email: nephrology@cchmc.org

www.cincinnatichildrens.org



TREATMENT APPROACH

Our pre-transplant evaluation process applies innovative management principles and protocols. The team conducts a thorough review of all medical records, including an assessment of recent blood pressure readings and other heart disease risk factors, and a thoughtful evaluation of the patient's risk for rejecting the kidney.

Our team provides highly personalized care to meet each patient's specific needs. For example:

- For patients with urological disease, we work closely with urology specialists to prepare the lower urinary tract prior to transplantation.
- For patients with specific immunological needs, we offer thorough evaluation and management that can involve desensitization and intense monitoring for donor-specific antibodies.
- For patients with underlying focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, we offer specialized pre- and post-transplant plans to minimize the impact of disease recurrence.

FOLLOW UP CARE TO IMPROVE LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

A kidney transplant presents clinical challenges for the rest of a patient's life. The Kidney Transplant clinic has many of our multi-disciplinary team members in the same visit providing streamlined and efficient care for our patients and families. The clinic provides careful surveillance of specific risk factors in order to extend the life of the transplanted kidney, optimize health outcomes and help patients enjoy the best quality of life possible.

One of the greatest immediate threats to the health of our patients is acute rejection of their kidney. Our multi-disciplinary team has developed systems to assess risk of rejection, and implement preventative strategies to reduce acute rejection in our patients. As a result we have cut rejection episodes by nearly 50% over the past several years.

Heart disease is the greatest threat to a kidney transplant recipient's long-term health. We are at the forefront of research and clinical care to prevent, identify and treat conditions such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol, which can lead to heart disease. Our team uses the latest techniques to measure blood pressure in the clinic and at home, and has developed systematic approaches to treating high blood pressure and cholesterol. We believe these interventions decrease the risk of heart problems in the future.

**For urgent issues, or to speak with the specialist on call 24/7,
call the Physician Priority Link® at 1-888-987-7997.**