

Liver Transplant



816

Liver transplants performed since 1986, including multi-organ transplants
(through July 2022)

98.15%

One-year post-transplant patient survival

(Based on 55 transplants evaluated between 01/01/2019 and 03/12/2020, and 06/13/2020 and 06/30/2021)

100%

One-year post-transplant graft survival

(Based on 52 transplants evaluated between 01/01/2019 and 03/12/2020, and 06/13/2020 and 06/30/2021 with a functioning graft at 90 days)

(Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients, July 2022 Report)



Cincinnati Children's is ranked #1 in Gastroenterology & GI Surgery and #3 in the nation among Honor Roll hospitals.

The Liver Transplant Program at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center provides comprehensive, interdisciplinary care for pediatric patients with irreversible end-stage liver disease. Founded in 1985, the program is one of the largest pediatric liver transplant programs in North America, both in terms of total transplants performed and ongoing activity. Our experienced specialists are committed to partnering with families and referring physicians to achieve the best possible outcome for each patient.

HOW WE'RE DIFFERENT

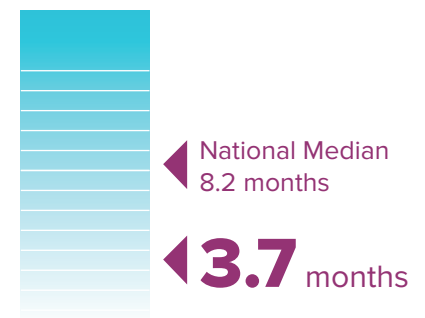
The Liver Transplant team at Cincinnati Children's is one of the busiest in the nation, with an average of 30 transplants each year.

- Cincinnati Children's, ranked #1 in Gastroenterology & GI Surgery and #3 in Cancer in the 2022–23 *U.S. News and World Report* listing of Best Children's Hospitals, has special expertise in liver transplantation for patients with unresectable liver tumors. Over the last 10 years, our team has performed more transplants for pediatric patients with liver tumors than any other hospital in the country. Oncologists are regarded as integral to the care team and partner with the transplant team throughout the treatment process. Patients can undergo cancer therapies at Cincinnati Children's before or after transplantation.
- We have performed 6 combined heart-liver transplants for congenital heart disease and liver failure since December of 2019 and are one of the few transplant programs in the nation performing this complex surgery.
- Our team has been offering living donor liver transplantation since 1997.
- Our team of hepatologists, hepatobiliary surgeons, nutritionists, transplant pharmacists, nurse care managers, interventional radiologists, pathologists and other pediatric subspecialists has worked together for many years and represents a broad diversity of knowledge. Clinical decisions are made in a collegial atmosphere in which open discussion is highly valued.
- We optimize post-transplant outcomes throughout every stage of care, offering comprehensive pre-transplant care and specialized transplant nurse coordinators, as well as ensuring personalized immunosuppression protocols are based on individual patient needs and the most up to date research.

FASTER TO TRANSPLANT

Median wait time for transplant at Cincinnati Children's

(Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients, July 2022 Report)



TREATMENT TEAM

Pediatric Hepatology

Alexander Miethke, MD
Medical Director

Akihiro Asai, MD, PhD

William Balistreri, MD

Kathleen Campbell, MD

Samuel Kocoshis, MD

Anna Peters, MD, PhD

Michael Rogers, DO

Amy Taylor, MD

Pediatric Hepatobiliary Surgery

Greg Tiao, MD
Surgical Director

Alexander Bondoc, MD
Associate Surgical Director

Nursing

Rebecca Rengering, RN
Clinical Director

Tina Carlisle, RN

Emily Cain, RN

Jamie Fisher, RN

Kristin Gramke, RN

Michelle Herre, RN

Charlene Morrow, RN

Jennifer Staley-Haynes, RN

Social Work

Lisa Belle, MSW, LSW

Celia Paige, MSW, LSW

Pharmacy

Anna Crooker, PharmD

Nutrition Therapy

Liz Alaimo, RD, LD

Program Manager

Elisabeth Ratermann, MHSA



TREATMENT APPROACH

Because long-term follow-up care is critical to maintaining the health of the liver graft and ensuring optimal medical and functional outcomes, we partner with families and their local physicians (primary care or gastroenterology) to provide continuity of care into adulthood. Our team has followed more than 746 isolated liver patients post-transplant, many of whom reside outside of the Cincinnati area.

IMPROVING CLINICAL CARE

The Liver Transplant team at Cincinnati Children's is dedicated to identifying new therapies and care protocols for pediatric liver transplant recipients through research, quality improvement and identification of best practice. Areas of interest include:

- Promoting medication adherence following liver transplantation
- Identifying stable pediatric liver transplant recipients for whom immunosuppression withdrawal is appropriate
- Uncovering the unique biology of pediatric liver tumors
- Investigating the immunologic drivers of acute cellular rejection

The unique, collaborative and multidisciplinary environment at Cincinnati Children's allows us to tackle these critical and complicated problems, which exist at the interface of many subspecialties including transplant immunology, oncology, psychology, hepatology, improvement science, pharmacology and others. Recent advances that fuel our discovery are:

- The establishment of the Liver Tumor Biology Program, led by Dr. Nikolai Timchenko, and the founding of the Center for Transplant Immunology, an integrated research program with both basic and clinical research.
- Our program collaborates with the Center for Stem Cell & Organoid Medicine (CuSTOM) at Cincinnati Children's, led by Dr. James Wells, in harnessing the potential of iPSC derived liver buds for patient specific disease modeling and organ replacement.
- The establishment of the Undiagnosed and Rare Liver Disease Center (CURL), led by Dr. Aki Asai, Dr. William Balistreri, and Dr. Chunyue Yin. CURL conducts translational and clinical research to seek accurate diagnoses, improve outcomes, and seek a cure for rare liver diseases, with an emphasis on progressive familial intrahepatic cholestasis (PFIC).

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

For non-urgent patient referrals and consultations during business hours, please reach the Liver Transplant Office at 1-513-636-4955 or liver-transplant@cchmc.org