

Living Liver Donation

What is Living Liver Donation?

Living liver donation is the process of a person donating a part of his or her liver to someone in need of a transplant who has been determined to be a candidate to receive a partial liver transplant.

What is the First Step?

To start the process of becoming a living donor, you will need to contact a transplant hospital. If you know the person you want to donate to, that person can put you in touch with their transplant center. If you want to be a living donor to someone you do not know, call your local transplant hospital to ask about being evaluated.

Living Donor Evaluation

A team of professionals at a transplant center will evaluate potential living donors from medical, psychological, and financial perspectives. The evaluation will consist of many medical tests and conversations to make sure a person is physically suitable to donate and fully understands everything about living liver donation.

The Surgery

If you donate to an adult, about 50% of your liver will be removed. If you donate to a child, about 25% of your liver will be removed. The liver grows back to full size for both you and the recipient in two to three months.

Is Living Liver Donation Safe?

There are risks associated with any type of surgery. Some risks are infection, a bad reaction to anesthesia, or bleeding. The best place to learn about these risks is from your transplant hospital staff. Talk with them about how likely these risks are to happen, how serious they are, and how they would be treated.

To learn more about liver transplant, scan the QR code below. For a complete list of all of our free resources, please visit: liverfoundation.org/resource-center.

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For questions about liver wellness and disease, or for emotional support to patients at the point of crisis and information on local resources including physician referrals, please contact our Helpline at 1-800-465-4837.

Donor's Guide



Recipient Toolkit

