Living Donor
LIVER TRANSPLANT

Baylor
Annette C. and Harold C. Simmons Transplant Institute
Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas

Scott & White Health
ARE YOU CONSIDERING LIVER DONATION?

Donating a portion of your liver to a friend, family member or other person is a big decision. We strive to provide an excellent donor experience and personalized care to all donors. The dedicated living donor team at Baylor Annette C. and Harold C. Simmons Transplant Institute is available to answer all your questions and guide you through the process.

The first step is for you to complete our confidential online health history questionnaire. Please type the following into your browser: livingdonordallas.org

Once you have completed this questionnaire, your information will be reviewed by a Baylor living donor coordinator. If you are a possible candidate, the coordinator will contact you to review your health history questionnaire and answer any questions you may have.

Information about the donation process is provided to you through the online questionnaire. Thank you in advance for your generous offer to be a living liver donor.

If you have any questions at any time, you may call 214.820.GIFT (214.820.4438) and a living donor coordinator can help confidentially answer your questions.

LIVING DONOR LIVER TRANSPLANT

WHAT IS A LIVING DONOR LIVER TRANSPLANT?

Living donor liver transplantation requires a big operation to remove a portion of a healthy person’s liver and put it into a person who has a sick liver.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A LIVING DONOR LIVER TRANSPLANT?

Living donor liver transplantation may be an option to any person who is presently on the liver transplant waiting list. Living donor liver transplantation offers immediate organ availability and is a planned operation which can avoid the progression of the recipient’s disease and its life threatening complications.

- A living donor liver is the best quality liver.
- A living donor transplant will eliminate the long wait time on the national deceased donor waiting list.
- Living donation maximizes the chance for a recipient to receive a transplant before a recipient’s condition dramatically worsens.
- The surgery can be timed for optimal health of the recipient and for donor convenience.

WHO CAN BE A LIVER DONOR?

Living donors may be relatives, loved ones, friends, or unrelated individuals with a close emotional connection to the recipient. The donor should be between 18-60 years of age, in good general health, with a compatible blood type, and a desire to donate without being pressured by anyone.

An evaluation process will be completed to determine if candidates can safely donate their liver.

- Blood Tests
- MRI of the Abdomen
- Chest X-ray
- EKG
- Liver Biopsy
- Physical Exam from Transplant Surgeon
- Physical Exam from Transplant Hepatologist
- Physical Exam from Donor Advocate Physician
- Social Work Evaluation
- Meeting and Education with Living Donor Liver Transplant Nurse
- Meeting with Living Donor Advocate

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING AND AFTER LIVER DONOR SURGERY?

During the liver donor surgery a portion of the liver is removed that is needed for implantation into the recipient (person with sick liver). The operation takes between five and seven hours. The gallbladder is also removed. The donor will have a scar and will be in the hospital four to six days. Every donor’s recovery time is different but donors typically spend two to four weeks recovering at home. The donor’s occupation will determine when they can return to work. It is important to note that the donor will not be allowed to lift more than 10 lbs. for 12 weeks after liver donation.

WHAT WILL IT COST FOR ME TO DONATE MY LIVER?

The donor’s medical expenses, including the costs of the evaluation, doctors’ fees, and hospitalization are usually covered by the recipient’s health insurer. Verification of insurance coverage will occur before the donor evaluation process is initiated.

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After 15 years, Lacy Barcak’s progressive liver disease began to gain momentum. “I was in and out of the hospital and going from bad to worse.” Lacy’s only good option was a living donor liver transplant. Her sister proved a willing and well-matched donor. Now Lacy is feeling great and “like her old-self again.”

“I have my sister and Baylor to thank for my liver transplant” – Lacy Barcak
If you have any questions at any time, you may call **214.820.GIFT (214.820.4438)** and a living donor coordinator can help confidentially answer your questions. For more information about our services, visit us online at [BaylorHealth.com/LiverTransplant](http://BaylorHealth.com/LiverTransplant).