

Selecting a Liver Transplant Program

Results

The proof of a program's expertise is in its outcomes. For every liver transplant program you consider, find out what the survival rates are to assess its qualifications.

UIC has been recognized, by the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (www.SRTR.org), for the highest patient and graft one-year survival rates from five programs in Chicago for the past two years.

Experience

Experience leads to the best results. But remember that hospitals and programs don't have experience, people do. What matters is the number of patients a health care team has treated.

UIC's liver transplant team has more than 50 years of combined experience from three different continents.

Team approach

It takes a team to perform a liver transplant. The program you select should have a highly experienced medical director, a transplant surgeon who specializes in liver transplantation, and the support of other specialists. Similarly important are the other members of the team, including liver transplant coordinators, specialized nurses, psychologists, social workers, nutritionists and physical therapists.

UIC's transplant program emphasizes a collaborative and comprehensive approach to patient care. One-stop management of liver transplant patients takes place in the dedicated transplant unit and the Walter Payton Liver Center in a highly coordinated fashion.

Full-Service

Liver transplants are highly individual procedures, so you'll want a program that offers a full menu of options — living donors and donor organs, standard and research treatment protocols, and adult and pediatric transplants. The best results are obtained when the treatment is custom-designed to each patient's disease, condition and desires.

UIC offers a complete array of options to personalize care to each patient's needs and, in turn, have achieved the best results.

Latest Treatments

Medical science changes daily, and it's important to have access to the latest advances. An academic medical center stays up-to-date on the most promising developments, and offers patients the option to participate in research programs.

UIC provides state-of-the-art treatment plans and access to the latest research trials.

Patient-friendly

A liver transplant is a process, not a single event. Finding a center where you're comfortable is

imperative. You'll want telephone access at any time of day, a single point of contact for all your questions, and a friendly, caring staff. It can make a world of difference to your outcome.

UIC has built a program based on the patient's physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Family-friendly

For most patients, family support is very important during the liver transplantation process. Make sure that your family can participate throughout, and that they have access to support services. It's also crucial to select a program that offers flexible visiting hours so your family can visit often.

UIC welcomes the active participation of family members throughout the transplant process.

Comfortable facility

Most liver transplant patients spend a few weeks in the hospital; consequently, choosing a comfortable facility is significant. It's important to have a designated surgical unit with private patient rooms to ensure a safe recovery.

UIC has a dedicated surgical unit equipped for the patient's safety and comfort.

Reputation

You'll feel better if you know that the hospital is highly regarded. Search for a hospital that has a strong reputation in all areas of patient care, especially gastroenterology services.

UIC has earned a reputation as one of the area's best hospitals for gastroenterology.

Convenient location

Certainly you want the best care; nonetheless, location can be essential also. It's ideal to find an excellent liver transplant program that is close to home, in order to minimize the disruption to your life. Moreover, family and friends will be more capable to participate in the process, which can improve your recovery tremendously.

UIC is centrally located in Chicago and easily accessible via highways and public transportation.

Liver Transplant Quality Data

Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) is a national database of transplantation statistics. The registry exists to support the ongoing evaluation of the scientific and clinical status of solid organ transplantation. Data in the registry are collected by the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) from hospitals and organ procurement organizations (OPOs) across the country. This data can be accessed by public at www.srtr.org.

Expected survival is calculated based on the case-mix of each program such as age and characteristics of recipients, characteristics of organ donors that can be translated into quality of donor organs to be transplanted. UIC is the only program in Chicago which over-achieved expected graft survival rate after liver transplantation, and the program with the best patient

survival rate. This is the result of a skilled team, work between medical and surgical groups, as well as the meticulous and thorough care of individual patients.

	2009	2010	2011
No. of Liver Transplants	42	54	47
Patient Survival (actual / expected)	91.67 % / 87.31 %	89.17 % / 88.06 %	pending
Graft Survival (actual / graft)	87.88 % / 84.11 %	86.37 % / 84.53 %	pending