



## *Talking with Your Doctor About Living-Donor Liver Transplant for Advanced Liver Cancer*

If you, or someone you love, has been diagnosed with liver cancer and has exhausted treatment options, we can help. At UPMC, we offer the option of a living-donor liver transplant to patients diagnosed with:

- Unresectable metastatic colorectal cancer
- Hepatocellular carcinoma
- Intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma or mixed cholangio/hepatocellular carcinoma
- Hilar cholangiocarcinoma
- Unresectable neuroendocrine tumor

During a living-donor liver transplant, a living person has a piece of their healthy liver removed and transplanted into another person to replace their unhealthy liver. The re-growth of liver cells in the remaining portion of the liver occurs in about four to six weeks for both the donor and recipient.

### **Starting the conversation with your oncologist**

If you think you could be a candidate for a liver transplant, speak with your oncologist about the option of a living donor transplant.

Reference the following discussion points while speaking with your oncologist:

#### **Am I a candidate for a living-donor liver transplant?**

Living-donor liver transplant can be a life-enhancing option for patients with liver disease. At UPMC, we evaluate patients with complex liver cancers who may not qualify for a deceased-donor liver transplant.

#### **What are the benefits of a living-donor liver transplant?**

- Shorter wait times — By finding a suitable living donor, patients can receive a transplant sooner.
- Improved outcomes — Transplant candidates generally have better results and improved outcomes when they receive organs from living donors as compared to deceased donors.
- Quicker recovery times — Patients recover faster because they're receiving a portion of a healthy donor's liver.
- Increased treatment options — Living-donor liver transplant increases available treatment options for patients with liver cancer.

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### **Resources to support you and your family through the living donation process.**

We understand that identifying a living donor can be a challenge. Our team offers a variety of resources to assist you and your family and support you throughout your entire journey.

Through the UPMC Living Donor Champion Program, patients and their families can work personally with a UPMC Living Donor Champion Ambassador.

A Living Donor Champion Ambassador helps those in search of a living donor by guiding them through the transplant process, providing tips and advice for sharing your story.

### **Who can be my living donor?**

Living donors can be family members, friends, or anyone else who wishes to help someone in need. Living donors and transplant recipients do not need to be related. Living donors must be:

- Between the ages of 18 and 55
- In good physical and mental health
- Not engage in active ongoing drug or substance abuse
- Have an unselfish desire to contribute to another person's life in a healthy way



### **How do I start the process?**

Your oncologist will need to refer you to UPMC for a liver transplant evaluation. Prior to your visit, our doctors are available to review your case with your oncologist to determine if you are a candidate for a living-donor liver transplant. At the UPMC Liver Transplant Program, we consider each person referred to our program – even if other centers have said that you are not a candidate.

## *Learn More*

To learn more about living-donor liver transplant, visit [LifeChangingLiver.com](https://www.lifechangingliver.com).  
Follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/LivingDonorTransplant](https://www.facebook.com/LivingDonorTransplant).