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Heart Transplantation


A heart transplant removes a damaged or diseased heart and replaces it with a healthy one. The healthy heart comes from a donor who has died. It is the last resort for people with heart failure [<https://medlineplus.gov/heartfailure.html>] when all other treatments have failed. The heart failure might have been caused by coronary heart disease, damaged heart valves or heart muscles, congenital heart defects, or viral infections of the heart.

Although heart transplant surgery is a life-saving measure, it has many risks. Careful monitoring, treatment, and regular medical care can prevent or help manage some of these risks.


After the surgery, most heart transplant patients can return to their normal levels of activity. However, fewer than 30% return to work for many different reasons.

NIH: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute


Start Here

- [Getting a New Heart \[https://www.myast.org/uploads/files/general/Getting-a-new-heart.pdf\]](https://www.myast.org/uploads/files/general/Getting-a-new-heart.pdf)
(American Society of Transplantation) - **PDF**
- [Heart Treatments \[https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/heart-treatments-procedures\]](https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/heart-treatments-procedures)  (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/tratamientos-cardiacos-procedimientos>]

Living With

- [Cardiac Rehabilitation: MedlinePlus Health Topic \[https://medlineplus.gov/cardiacrehabilitation.html\]](https://medlineplus.gov/cardiacrehabilitation.html)
 (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/cardiacrehabilitation.html>]

Related Issues

- [Heart \[https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/patients/by-organ/heart/\]](https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/patients/by-organ/heart/) (Health Resources and Services Administration)
- [Ventricular Assist Devices \(VADS\) \[https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/ventricular-assist-devices/\]](https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/ventricular-assist-devices/) (Texas Heart Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/dispositivos-de-asistencia-ventricular/>]
- [What Is a Total Artificial Heart? \[https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/total-artificial-heart\]](https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/total-artificial-heart)
 (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/corazon-artificial-total>]


Images

- [Heart transplant - series \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100086_1.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100086_1.htm) (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100086_1.htm]
- [Heart-lung transplant - series \[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100147_1.htm\]](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100147_1.htm) (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100147_1.htm]

Statistics and Research

- The SRTR/OPTN Annual Data Report [<https://www.srtr.org/reports/optnsrtr-annual-data-report/>]
(Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients)

Clinical Trials


- ClinicalTrials.gov: Heart Transplantation [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?intr=%22heart+transplantation%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles


References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Barriers to Immunosuppressant Medication Adherence in Thoracic Transplant Recipients: Initial Findings. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40724157>]
- Article: Conditions Associated With the Onset of Cancer After Heart Transplant: Longitudinal... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40709460>]
- Article: Four-dimensional flow magnetic resonance imaging assessment of left ventricular hemodynamics in... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40701758>]
- Heart Transplantation -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Heart+Transplantation%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Reference Desk

- Heart Anatomy [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/heart-anatomy/>] (Texas Heart Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/anatomia-del-corazon/>]
- How the Heart Works [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/heart>]  (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/corazon>]

Find an Expert

- American Heart Association [<https://www.heart.org/en/>]
- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/>] 
- Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network [<https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/>]
(Health Resources and Services Administration)

Children

- Ventricular Assist Device (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/vad.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/vad.html>]

Patient Handouts

- Heart transplant [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003003.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003003.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Heart transplant [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003003.htm>]

Heart transplant - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100086_1.htm]

Heart-lung transplant - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100147_1.htm]

Myocardial biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003873.htm>]

Ventricular assist device [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007268.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Cardiac Rehabilitation [<https://medlineplus.gov/cardiacrehabilitation.html>]

Heart Failure [<https://medlineplus.gov/heartfailure.html>]

Organ Transplantation [<https://medlineplus.gov/organtransplantation.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Heart Transplantation* is the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute [<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/>]

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