



HEART TRANSPLANT SERVICES



Jewish
Transplant Care

For more information on Jewish Transplant Care and our services, or to be referred to a physician, call (800) 866-7539 or visit www.jhsmh.org



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Heart Function

The heart is a muscle that works as a pump to send oxygen-rich blood through all parts of the body. It is divided into two sides, each divided into two chambers, the atrium (upper chamber) and ventricle (lower chamber). The heart will beat an average of 100,000 times per day, pumping more than 4,300 gallons of blood throughout your entire body.

Common Heart Conditions

Heart Failure

Heart failure is a condition in which the heart can't pump enough blood to the body's other organs, most often as a result of a past or preexisting condition. While the "failing" heart continues to function, it is no longer efficient, which results in shortness of breath and exhaustion, as well as swelling in the legs and feet.

More than 25 million people suffer from heart failure and of those, over 630,000 will die as a result of the condition (according to the CDC).

Who is a Candidate for a Heart Transplant?

The ideal heart transplant candidate is a person with end-stage heart disease, but with all other major organs in good shape and functioning efficiently. Past medical history, including previous transplants, smoking, alcohol, drug abuse or difficulty in following medical advice will also affect a patient's potential candidacy for transplant. All of these issues are considered for each patient to ensure that the best decision is made, and a team of experts will work together to determine whether or not heart transplant is an option.

Treatment Programs

The Congestive Heart Failure Program

The Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) program plays a vital role in improving the quality of life for CHF patients and their families. The program is designed to teach those suffering from the disease about congestive heart failure and how it can be managed, as well as improve symptoms to the best level possible while enhancing the patient's overall quality of life.

Specially trained CHF program staff work closely with physicians to determine the best course of action and treatment for the individual. Services offered include:

- State-of-the-art medical therapies and investigational drug trials
- Clinical trials in new heart failure devices
- Advanced and future surgical therapies for end-stage heart failure, such as ventricular assist devices (VADs) and possibly implantable artificial hearts.

Ventricular Assist Devices (VADs)

Jewish Hospital works in conjunction with the University of Louisville School of Medicine and has established itself as a national leader in the arena of clinical research and in the development of ventricular assist devices.

For some patients, conventional treatments are not adequate to relieve end stage heart failure and its effects. Under these conditions, mechanical circulatory support can be considered.

There are a number of ventricular assist devices capable of pumping blood throughout the body to restore circulation to vital organs. Patients may have a VAD implanted as they wait for a heart transplant to become available. If the patient is not a candidate for heart transplant, a more permanent device could be implanted to allow the patient to lead an active and productive life.

Jewish Hospital has FDA approval to use portable Thoratec® and Heartmate® ventricular assist devices in patients who can be safely monitored at home. Recognized as a leader in heart transplant and the implanting of VADs, Jewish Hospital became the second hospital in the nation (and first in Kentucky) to successfully implant the HeartWare Ventricular Assist Device system as part of a national clinical trial.



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