



Jewish Transplant Care

The Lung Transplant Program

The Jewish Hospital Lung Transplant Program performs both single- and double-lung transplants for a variety of diagnoses related to respiratory disorders, including emphysema, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pulmonary fibrosis, cystic fibrosis, and pulmonary hypertension.

Patients dealing with end stage lung disease have continually relied on the expertise of the multidisciplinary team at Jewish Hospital to provide the highest standard of patient care. The first lung transplant was performed at the hospital in 1991 and the first double lung transplant in Kentucky in 1995.

The United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) recently released gratifying data stating that the one-year survival rate among patients undergoing transplantation was 95 percent. This survival rate is significantly higher than the national one-year survival rate. These results are attributed to a trained medical team caring for each transplant recipient.

The Lung Transplant Team includes skilled specialists in pulmonary medicine, thoracic transplant surgery, social work, psychology, nutrition, pharmacy, pulmonary rehabilitation, and specialized nurse coordinators who work closely with the operating room, critical care and medical-surgical units at Jewish Hospital.

The team is trained to not only find the medical options best for you, but also walk you through from the beginning to the end of successful treatment. This includes a transplant pharmacy located on the hospital campus and is available to all past and current transplant recipients. This service is available to ensure there is no disruption in a patient's ability to follow a complex medication regimen. For more information concerning the pharmacy or to contact The Transplant Center at Jewish Hospital, call 1-800-866-7539 and follow the organ-specific telephone prompts.



LUNG TRANSPLANT SERVICES



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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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Lung Function

The lungs, located in the chest, are responsible for general respiration or “breathing.” All the cells in your body need oxygen to function properly. When your cells use oxygen, they produce a waste product called carbon dioxide. Too much carbon dioxide can be harmful to your body and it needs to be removed efficiently. It is the function of your lungs to do the work of taking oxygen when you inhale and eliminating carbon dioxide when you exhale.

Damaged lungs can make it difficult for your body to perform the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide. A variety of diseases and conditions can damage your lungs and hinder their ability to function effectively.

What is Lung Disease?

Lung disease is the number three killer in the United States, responsible for one in six deaths. According to the American Lung Association, more than 35 million Americans are living with chronic lung disease such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), otherwise known as emphysema and chronic bronchitis. Other lung diseases include, but are not limited to:

- Cystic fibrosis
- Pulmonary fibrosis (scarring of the lung)
- Sarcoidosis with advanced fibrosis
- Pulmonary hypertension
- Bronchiectasis
- Rare lung diseases

Lung transplant is always considered a possible option for patients with advanced lung disease.

Lung Transplant

A lung transplant is a surgical procedure to replace a diseased or failing lung with a healthy lung from a deceased donor. Depending on the medical condition, a lung transplant may involve replacing one lung, a single-lung transplant, or both lungs, a double-lung transplant.

Who is a Candidate for a Lung Transplant?

Candidates for lung transplants most often are those who have tried other forms of therapy unsuccessfully, have end-stage pulmonary disease or have a short-term likelihood of survival without a transplant (usually less than a two-year prognosis of survival). These patients have severe limitations on their ability to perform routine activities of daily living, and many require the use of oxygen.

If a patient has other conditions in addition to the lung disease, such as bone disease or heart disease, an evaluation will be done to determine the potential for recovery and rehabilitation after the transplant.

Treatment Programs

In many cases, lung disease can be treated in a variety of ways, depending on the specific condition. Treatments such as medication, breathing treatments, breathing devices and special types of therapies can all improve various stages of lung disease.

Your treatment will be determined by your dedicated team at Jewish Hospital, who will work with you to answer any questions and address any concerns, as well as point you to a health management program that is right for you.

In serious cases, lung disease becomes life threatening and medication and therapies may no longer be effective in treating the condition. In this case, a lung transplant may be discussed as the best method to increase life expectancy or improve overall quality of life.

Transplant Referral

Each patient referred to The Transplant Center at Jewish Hospital undergoes a thorough medical assessment to determine suitability as a transplantation candidate. Patients are also screened for anticipated compliance, support system availability, emotional stability and financial coverage for the transplant and post-transplantation care.

The screening process evaluates the severity of the lung disease and determines if the patient should be placed on the waiting list. The evaluation includes a battery of tests that assess how diseased the lungs are, as well as how healthy other organs are, such as the heart and kidneys.

The patient will also meet with a lung specialist, transplant surgeon, psychologist and dietitian, as well as attend a mandatory education class. Once this initial evaluation is complete, the case is presented to a review committee of physicians and other transplant team members who may request additional testing. If the patient is accepted as a candidate, they are placed on the lung transplant waiting list.



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