Texas Children's Hospital

Solid Organ Transplant Program

Leading the nation in pediatric transplant care

Texas Children's Hospital®

For the sixth consecutive year, Texas Children's leads the nation in pediatric transplants, as reported by the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN), placing the nation's largest children's hospital at No. 1 for pediatric heart, liver and lung transplants, and No. 2 for pediatric kidney transplants in the U.S. As the leading pediatric transplant center in the U.S., Texas Children's Hospital employs the field's most highly skilled specialists who regularly perform transplants for patients — from infants to young adults — whom other programs consider untreatable.

Our approach

The Transplant Services team employs a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach through each aspect of the transplant process, ranging from initial referrals, which are accepted from around the world, to hospitalization and post-transplant outpatient care. The multidisciplinary team of pediatric transplant experts works closely with patients, families and referring physicians to make the referral and evaluation process as streamlined, convenient and efficient as possible for both families and physicians.

The team's expertise and dedication to their patients results in unmatched patient outcomes and longevity after surgery. Each patient has robust follow-up from the multidisciplinary team and has access to specialists outside of the Transplant Program who are leaders in their fields.

Program highlights

Heart Transplant Program

Texas Children's Heart Transplant Program is one of the largest pediatric heart transplant programs in the nation. Since 1984, Texas Children's surgeons have performed more than 500 heart transplants in children, a benchmark reached by only a few programs in the United States. The program is backed by all the resources of Texas Children's Heart Center, which is ranked No. 1 in the nation for pediatric cardiology and heart surgery by U.S. News & World Report.

Kidney Transplant Program

Since 1988, surgeons at Texas Children's have performed more than 600 kidney transplants in children and is one of the largest kidney transplant programs in the nation. A multidisciplinary team of experts — including transplant surgeons, pediatric nephrologists, transplant coordinators, dietitians, child-life specialists and social workers — work together to provide optimal patient care and respond to patient and family needs.

Supportive care is provided by the Pediatric Dialysis Program at Texas Children's, which has expertise in performing acute and chronic hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis and plasmapheresis for children of all ages and sizes.

Liver Transplant Program

The multidisciplinary liver transplant program at Texas Children's is proud to be designated as a Wilson's Center of Excellence. The nationally ranked team of experts treats the most challenging and rarest of cases, giving every child the best chance for recovery. The liver transplant team performs more than 35 pediatric liver transplants each year utilizing the most advanced technology for every patient we treat.

Lung Transplant Program

Texas Children's is one of only eight pediatric lung transplant centers in the United States and leads the nation in performing the most lung transplants each year — often more than double the next most active program. The multidisciplinary team of experts has transplanted lungs in children from all areas of the country and successfully used extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) as a "bridge" to sustain a patient until a suitable donor becomes available. The team is committed to providing expert pediatric care to every patient we serve.

Today's stats

99 Transplant surgeries performed in 2022

500th Heart transplant completed in 2022

That's more heart, liver and lung transplants than **any other** children's hospital in the U.S.

Transplants performed since 1984

2100 Organs Transplanted

540+	730+	240+	600+
Heart	Liver	Lung	Kidney

Leadership team

John Goss, MD, FACS, Medical Director, Transplant Services

Dr. Goss is a Professor of Surgery in the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Abdominal Transplantation. He specializes in adult and pediatric liver transplantation, hepatobiliary surgery and surgical management of liver tumors. Dr. Goss has performed many surgical “firsts” in Houston, including the first split liver adult and pediatric transplants, the first adult living donor liver transplant, the first dual-organ lung-liver transplant and the first dual-organ heart-liver transplant.

Daniel J. Penny, MD, PhD, Chief, Pediatric Cardiology

Since 2010, Dr. Penny has led a team of physicians representing multiple pediatric cardiology subspecialties at Texas Children’s Heart Center. As an internationally recognized leader in pediatric cardiology, Dr. Penny was a founding director of the Australia and New Zealand Children’s Heart Research Centre, a collaborative network for multicenter research across Australia and New Zealand. His research bridges cardiac physiology and clinical studies of congenital heart disease.

William Dreyer, MD, Medical Director, Heart Failure, Cardiomyopathy and Cardiac Transplantation

Dr. Dreyer’s clinical interests include cardiac transplantation and advanced heart failure. His ongoing research includes studies evaluating new heart failure therapies, as well as new therapies and outcomes in cardiac transplantation. Dr. Dreyer has a special interest in the management of human leukocyte antigen (HLA)-sensitized patients before and after cardiac transplantation.

Iki Adachi, MD, Surgical Director, Heart Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support

Dr. Adachi is a board-certified cardiac surgeon specializing in congenital malformed hearts in pediatric and adult patients. He performs a full range of congenital heart surgeries, including neonatal single ventricle repairs and reoperative procedures in adults with a history of previous cardiac repairs. Dr. Adachi is one of the few surgeons worldwide in the field of surgical heart failure management, including heart transplant and mechanical circulatory support. He also has surgical expertise in pediatric lung transplants.

Michael Braun, MD, FASN, Chief, Texas Children’s Renal Service

Dr. Braun is dedicated to providing outstanding clinical care in the context of innovative clinical and translational research. His clinical interests include membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis, disorders of complement proteins, renal transplantation, disease recurrence in renal transplantation, end-stage renal disease, dialysis, acute kidney injury, nephrotic syndrome, kidney and urinary tract anomalies, and hypertension.

Eileen Brewer, MD, Medical Director, Renal Transplantation

Dr. Brewer is an internationally renowned expert in pediatric renal diseases, dialysis, transplantation and hypertension. She has been an active clinician and clinical researcher throughout her career. Dr. Brewer is the past president of the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology and has authored 90+ journal articles and 30 book chapters. She is frequently invited to speak at scientific meetings and workshops nationally and internationally.

Christine O'Mahony, MD, Surgical Director, Kidney Transplantation

Dr. O'Mahony is an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Abdominal Transplantation at the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine. She specializes in adult and pediatric liver transplantation, hepatobiliary disorders and the surgical management of liver tumors.

Benjamin Shneider, MD, Service Chief, Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

Dr. Shneider is a physician-scientist with varied areas of expertise, including a clinical focus on cholestatic liver disease and portal hypertension, basic and translational investigations of bile acid homeostasis and basic research on mechanisms of intestinal carcinogenesis. Dr. Shneider's primary research focus is on clinical investigations of pediatric liver diseases. As a leader, his goal is to leverage the wide-ranging clinical and research expertise of an exceptionally talented section to provide compassionate, state-of-the-art, discipline-leading and evidence-based care for children with all types of gastrointestinal, hepatic, pancreatic and nutritional disorders.

Daniel Leung, MD, Director, Pediatric Hepatology and Liver Transplant Medicine

Dr. Leung is an associate professor of pediatrics within the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition at Baylor College of Medicine, where he serves as director of Pediatric Hepatology and Liver Transplant Medicine. He is also the director of the Viral Hepatitis Program at Texas Children's. Dr. Leung is a clinician-scientist with broad expertise in the field of pediatric hepatology who has devoted his career to the study and care of children with chronic fibroinflammatory and cholestatic liver diseases.

Peter Hiatt, MD, Chief, Pulmonary Medicine Service

Dr. Hiatt's clinical areas of interest include cystic fibrosis (CF) and general pediatric pulmonology. He has devoted the last 25 years to CF, focused on both clinical care and CF-related research. Dr. Hiatt continues to be involved with new drug therapy for CF.

Tina Melicoff, MD, Medical Director, Lung Transplant Program

Dr. Melicoff is dedicated to research focused on improvement of transplant care and is involved in multiple research studies with collaborators from across the United States.She is the site principal investigator in multicenter studies from the Clinical Trials in Organ Transplantation for Children. Dr. Melicoff collaborates with experts in transplant immunology and microbiome and has made important contributions to a study measuring quality of life in lung transplant recipients.

Jeffrey S. Heinle, MD, Chief, Congenital Heart Surgery

In addition to his role as Chief of Congenital Heart Surgery, Dr. Heinle serves as Co-Director of Texas Children's Heart Center and Surgical Director of the Lung Transplant Program. He specializes in congenital heart surgery, including neonatal and infant repairs, as well as heart and lung transplants in children. His research interests include cerebral and myocardial protection during cardiac surgery, early extubation following congenital heart surgery, minimally invasive procedures in congenital heart surgery, advances in congenital heart surgery and improving outcomes following congenital heart surgery.

A history of success

- Performed the first successful infant heart transplant in the U.S.
- Performed the first pediatric lung-kidney transplant in the U.S.
- One of only three centers in the nation to perform a triple transplant of heart, lungs and liver in one procedure
- Led the first multi-center Berlin Heart® device trail for children

Referring a patient

To refer a patient to the Solid Organ Transplant Program at Texas Children's Hospital, please contact the service by:

Phone
866-683-8032

Fax
832-825-2570

Email
TransplantReferrals@texaschildrens.org

Every effort will be made to contact you within 24 hours of receiving your inquiry.

For more information, visit texaschildrens.org/transplant

The Solid Organ Transplant Program at Texas Children's Hospital is a member of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and is fully accredited by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).


Texas Children's Hospital
Mark A. Wallace Tower

The difference is

life changing™

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