

LIVER PAIRED DONATION

What is liver paired donation and is it right for me?

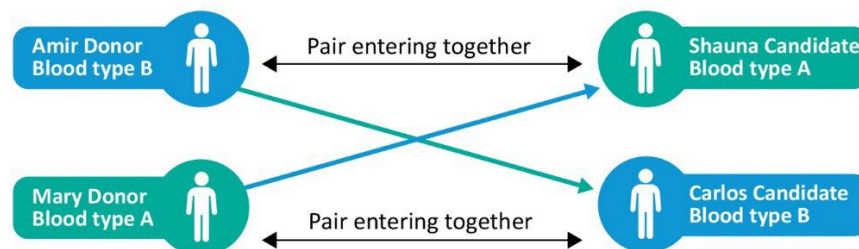
Your transplant team may ask you to think about a live liver paired donation, sometimes called a liver swap. A liver swap usually happens when a donor does not match a candidate. This could be because the potential donor's blood type is not compatible to the candidate's blood type. It may also be that blood vessels and bile ducts of the living donor's liver does not match the candidate. Size difference between the donor and candidate is another reason for not matching. When a donor and candidate do not match, the donor cannot donate directly to that candidate.

What is liver paired donation, or liver swap?

Liver swaps match donor and candidate pairs with other pairs across the country. Some pairs enter because they do not match each other as they had hoped. Others enter to find a better match. Pairs who do match can enter to help those who do not match receive a transplant.

Here is an example:

Amir wants to donate part of his liver to Shauna, but they do not match. Mary wants to donate to Carlos, but they do not match. Mary is a match for Shauna, and Amir matches Carlos. Swapping donors and candidates in this case allows both transplants to happen. This is liver paired donation, also called liver swap.



What is the United Network for Organ Sharing Liver Paired Donation Pilot Program?

The United Network for Organ Sharing is the mission-driven non-profit serving as the nation's transplant system under contract with the federal government. UNOS is sponsoring the Liver Paired Donation Pilot Program (Pilot Program). The Pilot Program goal is to increase the number of living liver donor transplants. Liver transplant surgeons and other experts in transplant worked together to create this program. Although swapping livers is new, transplant centers have been swapping kidneys since 2002. The living liver donation programs in the Pilot Program are the most experienced in the country. Together these hospitals have performed hundreds of living liver transplants over the years.

What are the benefits of taking part in a liver swap?

- The transplant may last longer and the candidate may have a better chance of long-term survival
- Candidates may not have to wait as long for a transplant, decreasing their risk of dying while awaiting transplantation
- Candidates can have surgery while they are healthier and better able to withstand surgery
- Donors help their loved one receive a living donor liver transplant
- Donors and candidates can help other patients receive a transplant

For more information about UNOS, visit www.UNOS.org.

For more information on the liver swaps, talk to your transplant team.