

# Heart Surgery



The Cincinnati Children's Heart Surgery Program is one of the leading surgical teams in the nation. Our internationally recognized cardiothoracic surgeons work hand-in-hand with the medical team to treat congenital heart defects in patients from infants through adults. As part of the Joint Pediatric and Congenital Heart Program with Kentucky Children's Hospital, they perform an average of more than 654 cardiothoracic surgeries each year, including approximately 15–20 heart, lung and multi-organ transplants.

## CONTACT US

For more information or to request a second opinion:

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[www.cincinnatichildrens.org/heart](http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/heart)



The Heart Institute at Cincinnati Children's is part of the Joint Pediatric and Congenital Heart Program.

A collaboration between Cincinnati Children's and Kentucky Children's Hospital, this program is ranked among the top 10 in the nation.

## SUPERIOR OUTCOMES

Cincinnati Children's is part of the Joint Pediatric and Congenital Heart Program, which is a collaboration between Cincinnati Children's and Kentucky Children's Hospital. We jointly report our outcomes data publicly, which demonstrate:

### High survival rates

- We take on the most complex surgical cases, and our average surgery survival rates are among the top of nationally ranked children's hospital outcomes. We have especially favorable outcomes for the most difficult procedures.\*
- Our 1-year heart transplant survival rate for children <18 years is 95.45%, compared to the national average of 92.01%.\*\*

### Shorter hospital length of stays

- Because of our focus on exceptional care from “diagnosis to discharge,” our heart surgery patients have some of the shortest post-surgical hospital stays in the United States. Our patients' average stay is half of the average stay at other children's hospitals.
- Our teams are leading initiatives to shorten length of stay to achieve the best outcome in the safest way possible, including:
  - Using advanced digital technology for planning
  - Detailed pathways for the patient hospital journey
  - Artificial intelligence to quickly recognize if patients veer off the pathway so we can correct course
- We also lead several pediatric cardiology collaborative networks that share data to improve outcomes in real-time.

## SECOND OPINIONS

Our team regularly provides second opinions that can reassure patients they are receiving the best possible care elsewhere, or offer insights about other treatment options available at Cincinnati Children's.



\*According to a national database of pediatric cardiac surgical procedures.

\*\*Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients July 2023 Report. Based on 23 (patient)/24 (graft) transplants performed between 01/01/2020 to 3/12/2020 and 06/13/2020 to 06/30/2022.

# 654

Cardiothoracic surgeries performed on average each year. This includes:

- Heart transplants
- Heart-liver transplants
- Heart-kidney transplants
- Lung transplants
- Heart-lung transplants
- Total artificial heart implants

*Joint Pediatric and Congenital Heart Program data, July 2016 to June 2023*

# 100%

1-year transplant survival rate for adults, compared to the national average of 90.84%\*\*\*

# 95%

1-year heart transplant survival rate for children <18, compared to the national average of 92.01%\*

# 98%

1-year survival rate for adult congenital heart surgery\*\*

*\*Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients July 2023 Report. Based on 23 (patient) / 24 (graft) transplants performed between 01/01/2020 to 3/12/2020 and 06/13/2020 to 06/30/2022.*

*\*\*Society for Thoracic Surgeons, all index primary procedures from 7/1/2018 to 6/30/2022.*

*\*\*\*Source: Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients July 2023 Report.*

## WHAT SETS US APART

- Babies that need surgery soon after birth can potentially be delivered on site in the Cincinnati Children's **Fetal Care Center Special Delivery Unit**. This keeps mom and baby close, with the CICU just a short distance away.
- We offer **innovative digital tools** to families for education, consent and planning. These include mobile apps, 3D printed heart models and digital and virtual experience technologies.
- Our team is leading the way in using **virtual tools for surgical planning** of the most complex repairs including virtual and augmented reality.
- Our surgical faculty are **breaking new ground through their research**. With two federally funded RO1 grants, they have also given **over 900 lectures** around the world and have contributed **more than 1,000 chapters** and manuscripts to the medical literature.

## TREATMENT APPROACH

- Each week we hold a **Joint Pediatric and Congenital Heart Program Case Management Conference** to discuss every surgical patient's case in detail. The conference includes over 60 pediatric cardiologists and our team of congenital heart surgeons and is unique to our program. The collective experience of this team is critical to providing the best care plan for each individual patient, in conjunction with the patient's primary cardiologist.
- We provide a **full suite of cardiothoracic surgery procedures**, including Norwood surgery, all steps of the single ventricle pathway, arterial switch, double root translocation, Nikaidoh, Supported Ross, Cone surgery for Ebstein's anomaly and complex biventricular repairs for heterotaxy patients.
- Our **mechanical circulatory support program** is internationally recognized and a leader in the field of supporting patients with ventricular assist devices (VADS) while they wait for a transplant, recover their own heart function, or in some cases choose to live with their device.

## CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY TEAM

### Surgeons

Awais Ashfaq, MD, FACC  
Carl L. Backer, MD  
David Lehenbauer, MD  
David L.S. Morales, MD

### CT Surgery Coordinators

Allyson Clements-Hans, RN, MSN  
Melissa Hagenmaier, RN, BSN  
Kelsey Donovan, RN, BSN  
Audrey McCabe, RN, MSN

### Clinical Manager, Cardiothoracic OR

Demi Waid, RN, BSN

### Advanced Practice Providers

Sydney Beckmeyer, PA-C  
Monica Dugan, APRN, CRNFA  
Lindsay Galchick, PA-C  
Alexandria Lawrence, PA-C  
Jim Mulloney, APRN  
Brad Mummert, PA-C  
Krystal Nymberg, PA-C  
Alan O'Donnell, PA-C  
Hannah Otte, PA-C  
Megan Stieg, PA-C

### Chief Perfusionist

James A. Reagor, MPS, CCP

**To speak with a cardiac specialist or for inpatient transfers, call Physician Priority Link® (PPL) and ask for the cardiology or the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU) attending physician at 1-888-987-7997.**