

Heart Transplant



25 days to 36 years

Age range of patients receiving a heart transplant at Cincinnati Children's from 2015 to 2022

100%

One-year transplant survival rate for adults
*National average is 90.84%**

95.45%

One-year survival rate for children <18 years
*National average is 92.01%**

Based on 23 (patient)/24 (graft) transplants performed between 01/01/2020 to 3/12/2020, and 06/13/2020 to 06/30/2022.

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



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.

The Heart Transplant Program at Cincinnati Children's has grown to become one of the largest in the United States. Our specialists have a wealth of training and experience in complex cardiac care. They take a collaborative, thorough approach to evaluation and treatment, with a focus on giving patients every opportunity to live full, productive lives despite a diagnosis of heart failure.

HOW WE'RE DIFFERENT

The Heart Transplant Program at Cincinnati Children's has grown steadily in recent years and is one of the larger volume pediatric programs in the United States. This growth can be attributed to a number of factors:

- The growing team of experts including Clifford Chin, MD, David L.S. Morales, MD, David Lehenbauer, MD, Awais Ashfaq, MD and Carl Backer, MD. Their areas of expertise include novel techniques to assess harmful antibodies prior to transplantation and the use of mechanical circulatory support devices for pediatric patients.
- A careful patient evaluation process, which has allowed us to broaden our criteria and offer transplantation to patients who might otherwise be excluded.
- Our approach to organ selection. We scrutinize available organs closely, even those that have been turned down by other institutions. A careful diagnostic process ensures that the organs we accept are appropriate for transplantation.
- The growth of the Ventricular Assist Device (VAD) and total artificial heart programs at Cincinnati Children's, which provides multiple options for bridge-to-transplant care.

The Heart Transplant Program is an integral part of Cincinnati Children's Integrated Transplant Services team, a multidisciplinary, multi-organ transplant group working together to advance the care of all transplant patients. Our team performs heart-kidney, heart-liver and heart-lung transplants.

Our nationally recognized Cardiac Rehabilitation Program is certified by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR) and provides medically supervised cardiac rehabilitation for eligible patients.

Patient safety is always of paramount importance at Cincinnati Children's. We take every step to optimize survival and enhance the patient's quality of life. This includes the use of sophisticated anti-rejection therapies and of cutting-edge technologies to detect and treat transplant coronary artery disease.

In addition, researchers at Cincinnati Children's recently developed a new mail-in blood test for children with transplanted organs, reducing the need for vulnerable immunosuppressed patients to visit the hospital to have blood drawn.



TREATMENT TEAM

Members of our team are leaders in the field, addressing key issues in heart transplantation through their clinical practice and participation in organizations such as the Pediatric Heart Transplant Study and the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation.

Clifford Chin, MD
Medical Director, Heart Transplant

Awais Ashfaq, MD, FACC

Carl Backer, MD

David Lehenbauer, MD

Ben Mantell, MD

David L. S. Morales, MD
Director, Cardiothoracic Surgery

Transplant Team Coordinators

Michelle Reid, BSN, RN

Rachel Weismiller, MSN, RN

Transplant Program Specialist

Diana Arevalo, MBA

Cardiomyopathy Nurses

Annie Katt, RN, BSN

Shelby Prenger, RN, BSN

Cardiomyopathy, Heart Transplant, Ventricular Assist Device

Kathy Daley, LISW-S, CCTSW

Angela Lorts, MD, MBA

Thomas D. Ryan, MD, PhD

Kaitlyn Schenkel, LISW

Shelly Stark, MSN, APRN

Juli Sublett-Smith, MSN, APRN

Chet Villa, MD

Ivan Wilmot, MD



TREATMENT APPROACH

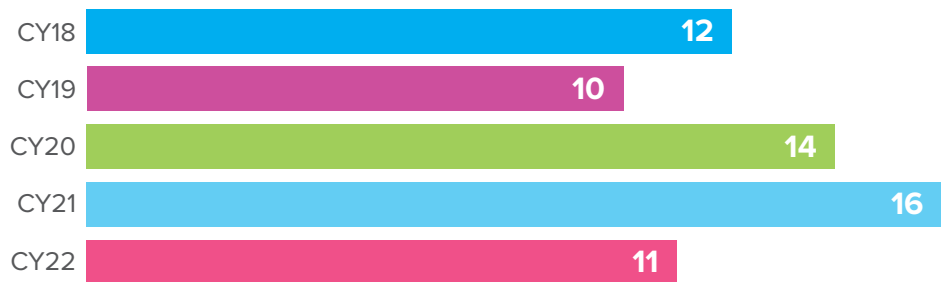
Our multidisciplinary team includes experts in heart failure, mechanical circulatory support and heart transplantation. Working together, these specialists evaluate the patient's condition from multiple perspectives, each adding their own expertise to create an optimal treatment plan. They consult with other experts at Cincinnati Children's including pulmonologists, neurologists, neuromuscular specialists, nephrologists and gastroenterologists. Weekly care meetings provide opportunities for the team to share expertise and learn from one another as they care for patients.

When patients are waiting for an organ to become available, our team supports their complex medical needs, including the non-traditional use of blood products, medications and mechanical circulatory support.

Cincinnati Children's offers long-term follow-up care through a number of clinics for heart transplant, cardiomyopathy and advanced heart failure, neuromuscular cardiomyopathy, and mechanical circulatory support.

Genetic counselors can provide extensive testing and analysis for family members of patients with congenital cardiomyopathy. This can help identify potential problems early, often before symptoms appear.

HEART TRANSPLANTS IN THE PAST FIVE CALENDAR YEARS



For urgent issues, or to speak with the specialist on call 24/7, call the Physician Priority Link® at 1-888-987-7997.