

Live Donor Liver Transplantation (LDLT)

Information for patients at
King's College Hospital

This leaflet explains a type of liver transplant called Live Donor Liver Transplantation (LDLT), what it involves and how you can become a donor. If you have any questions, please talk to a member of the liver team.

Confirming your identity

Before you have a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you your **name** and **date of birth** and check your **ID band**. If you don't have an ID band we will also ask you to confirm your address.

If we don't ask these questions, then please ask us to check.

Ensuring your safety is our primary concern.

What is a Live Donor Liver Transplant?

A living person surgically donates a portion of their liver to a person awaiting liver transplantation on a transplant waiting list for liver failure. The liver, unlike other organs, is then able to regrow (regenerate) to normal size within six to eight weeks.

Why do we need live donors?

For the most part, organs for transplantation come from people that have died. However, there are not enough deceased liver donations to meet demand, so the number of patients on the national waiting list for a new liver is growing. Death from liver disease is increasing and currently about 15% of patients will die before a liver becomes available for them. Live donor transplantation has been developed to try to overcome this shortage and help more patients with liver problems survive.

What are the benefits of being a live donor?

It reduces waiting times for an organ significantly and improves the success of the transplant as patients can be treated while they are still well enough to have surgery.

- Patients with a type of liver cancer called hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) can have a transplant while their cancer remains within transplant criteria.
- The part of the liver (graft) that is removed is more likely to be healthy because the time it is without a blood supply can be controlled and minimised (preservation time) and so reduces tissue damage.
- The quality of a live donor liver may be better as all living donors are fit, healthy adults who have had a full medical assessment.
- Planned (elective) surgery means live donors and recipients can prepare for the psychological, physical and social effects of the transplant.

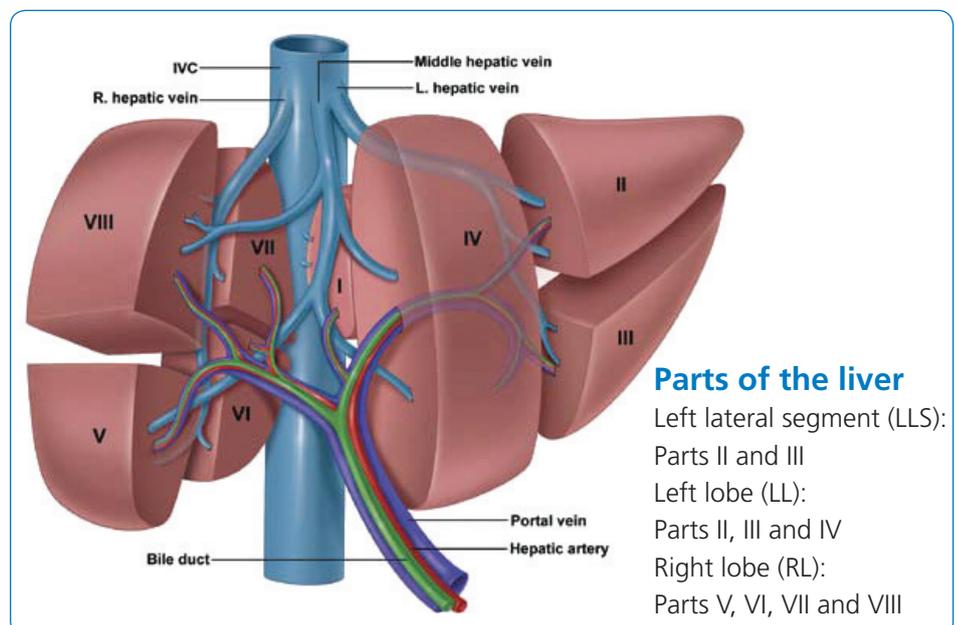
What are the risks of being a live donor?

During and just after surgery there are a number of risks to the live donor. Some risks are more serious than others and include blood loss, possibility of requiring a blood transfusion, infection and a small risk of death. These risks increase the bigger the volume of liver that is donated.

How much of my liver can I donate?

Other tests include a colonoscopy. We cannot take samples with a CTC so if we find abnormalities you may need a colonoscopy. Discuss with the doctor who sent you for your CTC whether the other tests are more appropriate.

Your liver has eight parts, each with its own blood supply. This allows us to use three types of liver graft for transplantation: the right lobe, the left lobe and the left lateral segment (LLS). The right lobe is about 60% of your liver volume, the left lobe is about 40% and the LLS is about 20%.



- In an adult-to-adult transplant, the amount of donor liver we need depends on the weight of the recipient but this usually requires a Right Lobe donation
- In an adult-to-child transplant, the most common donation is of the Left Lateral Segment, however this will depend on the recipient's weight
- If the recipient is a child weighing more than 25-30kg, Left Lobe donation is required.

Who can be a donor?

All potential donors must have a full medical assessment to make sure they are suitable to donate. Ideally you should:

- be between 18 and 55 years old
- be a blood relative or emotionally related (spouse/friend)
- be able to understand the process of living donation and the risks it involves
- be a compatible blood group to the donor.

Compatible blood groups	
Recipient's blood type	Donor's blood group
O	O
A	O or A
B	O or B
AB	O or A or B or AB

What does the medical assessment involve?

A series of tests and investigations are carried out to ensure a person's fitness to donate, for both donor and recipient safety.

These include:

- A full blood profile checking for a blood group match, any potential undiagnosed disease, and any viruses such as hepatitis or HIV, that may be passed to the recipient
- Investigations such as an electrocardiogram (ECG) to check the heart, a chest x-ray to monitor the chest and a CT scan to check your liver.

Surgical and Medical Consultants, Anaesthetists, Psychiatrists and other medical specialists (Intensivists) will all need to review the test results together to decide on donor eligibility.

The Live Donor Liver Transplant Coordinator will organise the medical assessment, provide counselling and education and be a point of contact throughout the process.

Sometimes, donor assessments find medical conditions that were not previously known about. These may be able to be treated before donation, but sometimes they mean live liver donation is too risky for both donor and recipient.

How do I become a donor?

The decision to become a live organ donor is very personal. It is something that needs to be considered very carefully because of the risks involved and the temporary upheaval to daily life. Live donation must be entirely voluntary and not be made because of pressure, coercion or for financial gain.

If you are interested in being considered as a live liver donor, please contact the Live Donor Liver Transplant Coordinator on: 07973 435303 or 020 3299 3326, 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday.



If I am a suitable donor, will my recipient be taken off the transplant waiting list?

No. The recipient will stay on the waiting list and will still be able to receive a liver from a deceased donor.

More information and support

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT)

www.nhsbt.nhs.uk

Email: customer.services@nhsbt.nhs.uk

Human Tissue Authority (HTA)

www.hta.gov.uk

The British Liver Trust

www.britishlivertrust.org.uk

Tel: 0800 652 7330

Sharing your information

We have teamed up with Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in a partnership known as King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas'. To make sure everyone you meet always has the most up-to-date information about your health, we may share information about you between the hospitals.

Care provided by students

We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. The PALS office is located on the ground floor of the Hambleton Wing, near the main entrance on Bessemer Road - staff will be happy to direct you.

PALS at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS

Tel: **020 3299 3601**

Email: **kch-tr.PALS@nhs.net**

You can also contact us by using our online form at

www.kch.nhs.uk/contact/pals

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact PALS on 020 3299 1844.