

The UPMC Heart Transplant Program: Key Outcomes and Milestones

About Us

The UPMC Heart Transplant Program is one of the most recognized and experienced centers in the nation. Our experts provide life-saving care to patients suffering from severe heart disease and heart failure, including those who have been deemed high risk and were turned down for a transplant at another center.

At UPMC, we maintain a strong legacy in cardiothoracic transplantation and mechanical circulatory support. Our dedication to innovation and patient care has allowed us to achieve groundbreaking milestones throughout the years.

- UPMC was the second center in the world to perform a successful heart-lung transplant.
- UPMC was the first center in the world to perform a successful heart-liver transplant.
- UPMC was the second center in the nation to implant Jarvik Artificial Heart as a bridge-to-transplant.
- UPMC was the first center in the world to perform a heart-liver-kidney transplant.
- UPMC was the first center to discharge a patient home after a cardiac assist device implantation.
- UPMC was the first heart transplant center in Pennsylvania to perform a donation after circulatory death (DCD) heart transplant.

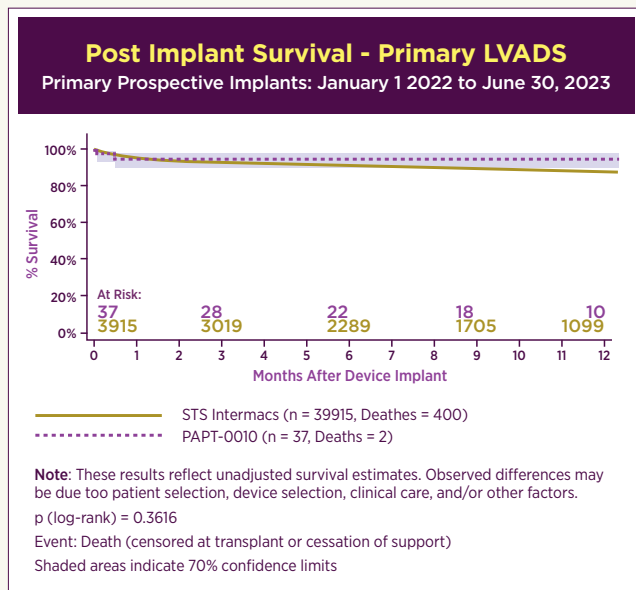
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Leadership

Led by Mary Keebler, MD, medical director of the Advanced Heart Failure Center, David Kaczorowski, MD, surgical director of the Advanced Heart Failure Center, and Gavin Hickey, MD, medical director of the UPMC Ventricular Assist Device Program, our program continues to advance patient care and achieve outstanding clinical outcomes.

Artificial Hearts and Ventricular Assist Devices (VADs) Key Outcomes

The UPMC Artificial Heart Program is one of the most active programs in the United States. Our experts have implanted close to 1,000 durable VADs to improve the lives of our patients. In the recent INTERMACS report from Jan. 1, 2022 to June 1, 2023, UPMC achieved a 94.6% survival rate for primary left ventricular assist devices (LVAD). Since Dec. 5, 2022, our program has implanted a total of 24 devices with zero deaths.



The UPMC Heart Transplant Program

UPMC's Heart Transplant Program is the highest volume center in Pennsylvania, performing more than 1,700 heart transplants to date. In 2023, our center performed the most heart transplants in the state of Pennsylvania. Our team achieves sustained growth and exemplary clinical outcomes and utilizes innovative solutions, including donation after circulatory death (DCD), to safely and effectively increase the number of donor organs available for those in need. This is the original method of managing organ donation and has increased donations by as much as 25% in some parts of the country. Utilizing DCD at UPMC dramatically decreases wait times to patients on our waiting list by increasing organ availability.

Since Dec. 2020, our team:

- Has transplanted more than 100 hearts.
- Achieved a 100% survival rate for isolated DCD heart transplants.
- Achieved an isolated heart transplant 1-year survival rate of 98.8%.
- Achieved an isolated heart transplant 90-day survival rate of 100%.

The Heart Transplant Program at UPMC also specializes in multi-organ transplants, including heart-liver, heart-lung, and heart-kidney.

We continue to pioneer new advancements in the management and treatment of heart disease. At UPMC, we provide patients with a single point of entry and a seamless transition of care with collaboration between the UPMC Heart Transplant Program and the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute.

Refer a Patient

Our team at UPMC is available to discuss your patient's case or provide a second opinion. To refer a patient or consult with one of our experts, contact cttransplant@upmc.edu.