



HEART TRANSPLANT PROGRAM

The Pediatric Transplant Center at Children's Hospital Boston gathers together physicians, nurses and support specialists into a collaborative, interdisciplinary team. Programs for heart, lung, kidney, liver, intestine & multivisceral and stem cell transplant actively share knowledge and best practices to optimize outcomes for patients and their families.

Heart Transplant Program

The Heart Transplant Program at Children's Hospital Boston evaluates infants, children and adolescents who are potential candidates for transplantation, manages pediatric patients with end-stage heart disease awaiting transplant and cares for transplant recipients. Since the program's inception in 1986, Children's has performed more than 180* heart transplants.

Patient Care

The Heart Transplant Program at Children's is one of the largest pediatric heart transplant centers in the country. The multidisciplinary team of cardiac surgeons, cardiologists, advanced practice nurses, physical therapists, radiologists, pathologists, nutritionists, transplant pharmacists and transplant coordinators combine to provide comprehensive care to our complex patients and their families. Social work, psychiatric and child life support programs, as well as the immunocompromised infectious disease team, actively serve the transplant program. Pediatric cardiac anesthesiologists are an integral part of each team in our operating rooms, cardiac intensive care unit and cardiac catheterization laboratory. Together, we offer expertise in end-stage heart failure, ventricular assist devices and pre- and post-transplant management.

Patients with complex congenital heart disease make up more than fifty percent of the heart transplant evaluations. The remainder of the patients have cardiomyopathy that has failed medical management. The Heart Transplant Program exists within the larger Cardiovascular Program at Children's. The Cardiovascular Program is a world-leader in pediatric cardiology and cardiac surgery, and has pioneered treatments that have dramatically improved the survival rate for fetuses, infants, children, teens and adults with congenital and acquired heart defects.

Innovation and Research

The Heart Transplant Program participates in many multi-center studies and registries, including the Pediatric Heart Transplant Study, the Pediatric Cardiomyopathy Registry, ESLO (ECMO Registry) and Intermacs Registry (for ventricular support). We are conducting multiple clinical and research protocols that are actively enrolling patients in an effort to understand pediatric heart failure and post-transplant management. Examples of these include protocols for the highly sensitized patient, for humoral rejection, a steroid-free protocol and a bone density study.

Children's has an active program for mechanical circulatory support for children with end-stage heart disease. Modes of support include Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) and Ventricular Assist Devices (VAD), including the Berlin Heart EXCOR. Children's physicians and nurses have played a leading role in the research and regulatory issues surrounding VAD use in the United States.

Members of the Heart Transplant Program team have served on national committees for the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and have presented at many national scientific meetings.

Referrals and Consultations

To make a referral or for a consultation to the Heart Transplant Program, call 617-355-6329, or visit us on the web at www.childrenshospital.org/hearttx

Transplants performed by age*

Age	Total since 1986	2007	2006	2005	2004
<1	15	3	0	1	2
1-5 years	57	3	3	3	5
6-10 years	29	1	0	3	2
11-17 years	65	5	5	0	6
>18 years	15	1	2	1	0
Total	181	13*	10	8	15

*Through October 2007