

Children's Organ Transplant Association®

The Trusted Leader Supporting Families

Transplant and Organ Donation Facts



Nearly 125,000 U.S. patients are currently waiting for solid organ transplants, with many more searching for a cord blood, marrow or stem cell match.



Each day, about 77 people receive an organ transplant. Each day, 22 people die waiting for an organ transplant.



First U.S. organ transplant -- 1954 at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital -- kidney was transplanted from one twin to another.



Currently there are more than 50 organ procurement organizations in the United States that provide organ procurement services to nearly 300 transplant centers.



Donor organs are matched to waiting recipients by a national computer registry called the National Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN). This computer registry is operated by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) in Richmond, Virginia, which was chartered by Congress to provide this service.



The cost of organ transplants varies greatly, not only with the type of transplant, but also with the hospital where the procedure occurs. Typical organ transplant costs (not including pre-transplant or follow-up treatments) are: kidney, pancreas or small bowel \$125,000; liver \$300,000; lungs \$300,000; heart \$350,000; bone marrow, stem cell and cord blood transplants \$150,000 - \$500,000 each.



Hospitals require that a patient be able to show proof of payment before the patient is placed on a transplant waiting list. Typical insurance plans will pay 80% of the "normal and customary" expenses incurred for the procedure. That means that for a \$300,000 liver transplant, the patient will likely be responsible for a deductible plus other related expenses such as temporary housing while the patient is hospitalized, transportation for pre- and post-transplant care, medications, etc. The lifetime total can easily exceed \$1,000,000.

The Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) is a national charity based in Bloomington, Indiana, which is dedicated to organizing and guiding communities in raising funds for transplant-related expenses. COTA's services are completely free of charge, and 100% of funds generated by COTA community fundraising campaigns are available for transplant-related expenses.