

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR TRANSPLANT TEAM

Patients usually have many questions as they go through the transplant process. It is important to ask members of your transplant team about your transplant and your health. Below are samples of questions you may want to consider. Some additional information is also available on our website: www.massgeneral.org/transplant.

What are my choices other than transplantation?

What are the benefits and risks of transplantation?

What tests and other procedures will I need as part of the evaluation process?

How does the evaluation affect whether or not I am put on the waiting list? (Yes – transplantation is major surgery and may not be the best option for your illness.)

How will I know I am definitely on the waiting list? (You will receive a letter after completing your evaluation and your condition has been discussed by the Transplant team.)

How long can I expect to wait? (This depends on the type of organ you need and the availability of a good organ matched for your body.)

How many transplants does M.G.H. and my surgical team perform each year?

How long will my organ survive if I have it done at the M.G.H. or at other centers?

How does this medical team decide whether or not to accept a particular organ for a patient?

Who are the members of the M.G.H. transplant team and what are their roles? How do I reach them if I have questions? (Website: <http://www.massgeneral.org/transplant/>)

How many surgeons at this hospital are available to do my type of transplant?

Who will teach me about the transplant process?

Are there special wards of the hospital for transplant patients? (Yes – the Transplant Unit, Blake 6, and a number of intensive care units and other specialty units)

Does MGH have clinical research programs in transplantation? Will I be asked to take part in research studies? (Yes, MGH has a well-known research program that has made many advances in transplantation. You may be offered the chance to participate in research studies – if so, you will be told all about the study in advance and have a chance to offer to participate or to refuse without affecting your transplant care.)

Is a living donor transplant a possibility for me? If so, how do you know who is the right donor? What risk there is for the donor? What type of evaluation do they need? What is the process for living donation?

For a living organ donor, are there options for the type of surgery such as laparoscopic surgery? Who can explain laparoscopic surgery to me? What are the advantages and disadvantages?

Can I be listed for a transplant at a second hospital (yes)? And how does this affect my waiting time (depends on the nature of the waiting list at each center and in each region – but will not affect your wait at the first center)?

Is my age an issue?

How long does an evaluation take if I have a possible living donor (for kidney, liver, or lung transplantation)?

Will my own doctor help to take care of me after I have received my new organ? (yes!)
