

Si usted desea esta información en español,
por favor pídasela a su enfermero o doctor.

I can tell you about my child's follow-up appointments.

We need to check your child often after the transplant, so we can find problems early, if they occur. Unless your child is having a problem that needs more attention, we will see your child:

- twice a week (Monday and Thursday) during the first month after transplant
- once a week during the second month after transplant
- every two weeks during the third month

During these visits we will examine your child and do blood tests. Ask questions about your child's progress and care.

If at any time between appointments you have a question, call us at 602-933-0940.

What we are looking for in follow-up appointments

Some children who get a liver transplant have no problems at all. However, most have at least one problem (called a **complication**), and some have more than one problem. When we see a problem, we will treat it.

The most common problems are:

Right after surgery:

- The liver does not work (called primary graft non function). This is treated with another liver transplant.
- The liver does not work well (called poor early graft function). We support your child until it starts to work better.
- A blood clot that blocks the liver artery (hepatic artery thrombosis). We will try to unblock the artery. If this does not work, another liver transplant will be necessary.

- A blood clot that blocks the liver vein (**portal vein thrombosis**). This is treated with another liver transplant.
- Bile leaks. Treatment may be needed to stop the leak. If that does not work, another liver transplant may be needed.

Later on:

- Rejection of the liver. This can happen at any time, but is common in the first 3 months after transplant. This can be treated with medicine in the hospital.

- Infection

Infections are usually caused by certain viruses, fungus, or bacteria. They can be treated.

- Blocked biliary tract

The bile duct may get blocked. It is treated by putting a tube in it to keep it open. If that doesn't work, surgery may be necessary.

- Side effects from the medicine

After the surgery, we will teach you what to look for and what to do.

- The problem that caused the need for a liver transplant comes back.

Some diseases that may not be cured by a liver transplant include Hepatitis B (HBV), Hepatitis C (HCV), Autoimmune Hepatitis (AIH), and cancer.

- PTLD (post transplant lymphoproliferative disease)

PTLD is usually caused by the EB virus. Symptoms include fevers that come and go, snoring, diarrhea, and feeling very tired (fatigue). This is usually treated by lowering the dose of some medicines (immunosuppressive medicines or chemotherapy).

If you notice your child's condition is changing, call the transplant team right away.

Disclaimer

The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children's Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.