

Mayo Clinic News Network

Title: Mayo Clinic Minute: Living donor organ transplants Date: April 6, 2017

Intro: If you're among the 54 percent of American adults who've [registered](#) to be an organ donor, it's encouraging to know your decision could end up saving the lives of up to eight people. A [living-donor transplant](#), naturally, is handled differently and often comes about when a friend or family member has a dire need.

Although, in the case of [kidney transplants](#), altruistic, or Good Samaritan, donations have been on the rise. "Some people just come forward as a potential donor wanting to help a needy patient that's on the waiting list," says Dr. Charles Rosen, director of [Mayo Clinic's Transplant Center](#). "Another thing that happens is a donor and recipient pair come forward, where it's not a match for one reason or another, and they may exchange kidneys with another donor-recipient pair."

During this [National Donate Life Month](#), Dennis Douda shares more of Dr. Rosen's thoughts.

Video	Audio
Total running time [1:00]	///VIDEO
TITLE: Charles Rosen, M.D. Transplant Center Director Mayo Clinic	"You know, 1 out of 5 to 1 out of 4 of the people that I meet with will never get a liver."
Dennis Douda speaking	Mayo Clinic transplant surgeon Dr. Charles Rosen says it's a hard reality. And even more patients with failing livers would die, if not for living donors.
Dr. Charles Rosen speaking	"We can take up to 70 percent of the liver but not more. It grows back very quickly in both the donor and the recipient."
Dennis Douda speaking	Occasionally, parts of lung and intestine are supplied by living donors. Four out of 5 people on the transplant waiting list need a kidney. Dr. Rosen says kidneys from living donors function better, last longer and can eliminate lengthy waits.
Dr. Charles Rosen speaking	"Which may be five to seven years in many parts of the country, during which time a patient has to be on dialysis, which may be three to four hours a session, three to four times per week."
Dennis Douda speaking GRAPHIC <u>Living Organ Donors</u> 18+ years old Physically & mentally healthy No substance abuse problems	Living donors must be at least 18, in good mental and physical health, with no alcohol or substance abuse problems. While family members often provide the best tissue match, 1 in 4 living donors are not biologically related. For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Dennis Douda.

Anchor tag: On any given day, about 120,000 people are on the organ transplant waiting list. Another person is added to the list every 10 minutes.