

Mayo Clinic Minute

How the immune system can make getting an organ transplant trickier

Video	Audio
	It's one of the biggest hurdles for people needing an organ transplant, and it's caused by their own immune system.
00:00:52 DR. ANDREW BENTALL 03:	"People can get sensitized from transplantation from previous transplants, from blood transfusions and also from pregnancy."
	Dr. Andrew Bentall, a Mayo Clinic transplant nephrologist, says it happens when a person has antibodies that cause their immune system to reject a transplanted organ.
00:06:03 ANDREW BENTALL, M.B., CH.B., M.D. NEPHROLOGY Mayo Clinic	"The immune system doesn't recognize the organ as an organ. It just says: 'This is foreign. I'm not used to having this in my body, and I'm developed to be able to reject foreign things.'"
	Sensitization can cause a person to wait much longer for an organ transplant.
	But researchers have developed drugs that can help protect a transplanted organ in someone whose body is sensitized.
00:04:52 DR. ANDREW BENTALL 03:	"So it stops the antibodies from killing the cells there. It's a drug that's very effective for that, to be able to let people who either have an unexpected antibody-mediated rejection episode, or one that we may be expecting, to get through that difficult period."
	Dr. Bentall says patients with sensitization also do better when they're able to find a living donor.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Ian Roth.