

## Mayo Clinic Minute: When the liver fails

Video	Audio	
	The liver is the largest internal organ of the body. It is essential for metabolism, digesting food and ridding the body of toxic substances. Liver failure can happen quickly, or over time.	
Bashar Aqel, M.D. Transplant Hepatology Mayo Clinic	"Once liver disease advances, the only way we can reverse the process and give the patient their life back is by replacing the liver. "	
Bashar Aqel, M.D. Transplant Hepatology Mayo Clinic	"They usually are anxiously waiting for that call when a donor becomes available. And that's what we call the deceased donor liver transplantation."	
	Another option is a living liver. Donors needs to go through an extensive evaluation to make sure they can donate safely.	
Bashar Aqel, M.D. Transplant Hepatology Mayo Clinic	"A healthy liver is able to regenerate. With living donor liver transplantation, both segments of the liver will grow back to almost the normal size within 90 days after transplantation."	
	Being a living organ donor may not be an option for everyone, but there are ways to people can sign up to be an organ donor. It can be as easy as checking a box on your driver's license.	
Bashar Aqel, M.D. Transplant Hepatology Mayo Clinic	"Donating your organs is really donating the gift of life to people who are in urgent need for organ transplantation."	
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.	