

Mayo Clinic Minute: 'Liver in a box' is saving lives with new technology

VIDEO	AUDIO
00:51 Dr. Mathur	"The technical name for it is 'normothermic mechanical perfusion.'"
Jason	Also known as "liver warm perfusion" or "liver in a box," it was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in late 2021 for use in the U.S.
00:57 Amit Mathur, M.D. Transplantation Surgery Mayo Clinic	"It describes a way of storing a liver when it is in the process of being recovered from the organ donor — from a deceased donor — to an organ transplant recipient."
Jason	In the past, the only way to do that was using cold preservation — keeping the liver on ice to slow down its metabolism. But liver warm perfusion preserves the organ differently.
01:34 Dr. Mathur	"We're actually able to keep the liver alive in a box with oxygenated blood flowing through the blood vessels that supply the liver."
02:37 Dr. Mathur	"We're able to observe the organ being metabolically active, meaning the organ is still working."
Jason	Transplant teams at Mayo Clinic using liver warm perfusion say the early results are promising.
04:42 Dr. Mathur	"We have found that patients are more stable during surgery, particularly at that critical moment when we restore blood flow to the new organ after extracting the old liver."
Jason	The technology also is being used for heart and lung transplants.
Jason	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jason Howland.