

## Mayo Clinic Minute: Liver transplant for patients with advanced colorectal cancer

Colorectal cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the U.S. and the second deadliest. One in 5 patients is diagnosed with metastatic disease, meaning the colorectal cancer has spread beyond the colon, often to the liver. When surgery isn't an option, a liver transplant may be a lifesaving alternative. Mayo Clinic is pioneering this approach, combining expertise in oncology and transplantation to offer new hope for patients.

Dr. Denise Harnois, a Mayo Clinic transplant hepatologist, explains how this innovative strategy is expanding treatment options and improving outcomes.

Video.

Audio

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|   | Learning you have colorectal cancer that has spread to the liver can be scary. In some cases, a liver transplant may offer hope, providing better outcomes when other treatments aren't an option.   |
| Denise Harnois, D.O.<br>Hepatology<br>Mayo Clinic | "In those circumstances where patients have colon cancer that's gone to the liver, that doesn't seem to be anyplace else within the body, but they're not eligible for consideration of doing a surgical resection. – In those circumstances, we can consider replacing the entire liver, and that involves a liver transplant." |
|   | Mayo Clinic's Dr. Denise Harnois says it's a complex surgery requiring experts from multiple teams working together.   |
|   | "We're working together as a team to make sure we are offering the best options for the potential for cure for these patients."  |
|   | She says liver transplants have greatly improved survival rates. One-year survival is 80 to 100%, three-year... around 80%, and five-year... between 60 and 80%.   |
|   | "Without consideration of liver transplant, their five-year survival rate would have been 15%. So we can offer a dramatic improvement in survival rates in patients that undergo liver transplant."  |
|   | For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Joel Streed.   |