

Inside the Innovation

[Anchor intro] Have you ever wondered how robotic-assisted surgery works? It's common to hear about it these days, but how does a physician really work with a robot? Mayo Clinic explains.

Nat sound, in the operating room	
Narrator	This National Donate Life Month, Mayo Clinic is highlighting how innovation is shaping the future of transplant care.
Sylvester Sterioff, M.D. Emeritus Physician Mayo Clinic	"I joined Mayo Clinic as a transplant surgeon in 1976, 50 years ago. During this time, I've seen Mayo's collaborative practice, well suited to this complex field, the one-year outcome for a deceased donor donated kidney transplant was just 35%. Now, the results for all organs transplanted is over 90% for one year.
Nat sound in the operating room with Dr. Michelle Nguyen	"perfect"
Narrator	That legacy continues with robotic-assisted kidney transplantation, an approach offered at a limited number of advanced transplant centers nationwide.
Alex Cortez, M.D. Transplant Surgeon Mayo Clinic	"In robotic-assisted surgery, the surgeon controls every movement. The robot isn't operating on its own. It's a tool that gives us greater precision with a magnified view. With multiple working arms at the operative field and the surgeon operating from the nearby console, the surgeon can make extremely fine, precise motions. This can also make surgery possible for some patients with more complex conditions."
Narrator	Looking ahead, advances in robotics shape what the next era of transplant medicine looks like.
Michelle Nguyen, M.D. Transplant Surgeon Mayo Clinic	"For the first time at Mayo Clinic, we have been able to perform a simultaneous kidney and pancreas transplant using robotic surgery. Looking to the future, there's a lot of innovation occurring. There's telepresence happening where surgeons from all over the country can telepresence in and watch and learn from the Mayo Clinic. There are opportunities for leveraging the data to then potentially train the robot and other machine learning models to help us make the operation much smoother."
Narrator	Mayo Clinic is not only advancing today's transplant care, but helping define what comes next. And none of it is possible without organ donors —whose generosity makes lifesaving innovation possible. For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jason Howland.