Diken · Mesude Demir · July 26, 2024
Source: https://www.diken.com.tr/dunyanin-ilk-yedili-karaciger-capraz-nakli/
Saved as PDF on November 2, 2026 · English translation by Google Translate; original in Turkish

The world’s first seven-part liver cross-transplant.

26/07/2024 14:00 Reading time: 1 minute.

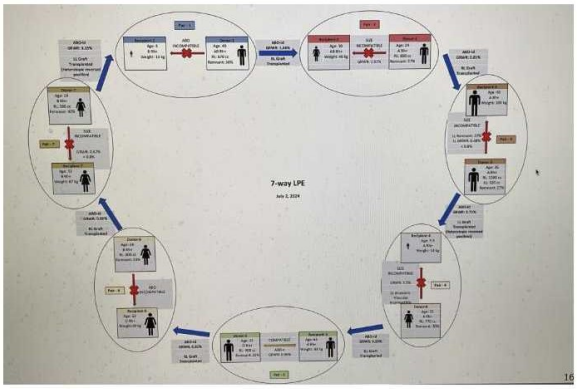


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The world's first seven-liver cross-transplant was performed by physicians at the İnönü University Liver Transplant Institute in Malatya. The institute is the first and still the only center to perform quadruple, quintuple, and sextuple liver transplants. Led by Director Prof. Dr. Sezai Yılmaz, the surgical teams operated on seven donors and seven recipients simultaneously to account for the possibility of last-minute cancellations. Three women, two men, and two children received new livers.



It makes the best use of the scarce resource organ.

This success was achieved through the collaboration of numerous disciplines.

Recipients and donors were matched using a system developed jointly by Boston College economics professors Tayfun Sönmez and Utku Ünver. The Banu Bedestenci Sönmez Liver Transplant System, named after Sönmez's wife who passed away in 2016, aims to deliver organs to patients in the most efficient way. The system, which became operational approximately 20 months ago, utilizes optimization and economic design principles. Sönmez and Ünver have been working for years on the optimal allocation of scarce resources.



Prof. Dr. Sezai Yılmaz and Prof. Dr. Tayfun Sönmez .

In Türkiye, 80% of organ transplants are performed using living donors. However, only 30-40% of donors are able to donate to a close relative. A donor who is medically incompatible with a close relative may often be compatible with another patient.

When a patient is incompatible with their own donor but compatible with a donor from another patient, an organ exchange takes place between medically compatible donors. In other words, recipients and donors are cross-matched.

The institute is far ahead.

As of July 20th, two six-person, three five-person, five four-person, twelve three-person, and seventeen two-person transplants have been performed using this system.

Apart from İnönü University Liver Transplant Institute, there are no other centers that can perform more than 10 cross-liver transplants per year.

Between 2002 and 2022, fewer than 250 cross-liver transplants were performed worldwide. In just two years, Malatya reached half the number of transplants performed globally in the previous 20 years.

The previous leader, Medanta Hospital in India, performed 91 cross-transplants in 13 years, between 2009 and 2022. One of these was a triple transplant, while the rest were double cross-transplants. In contrast, South Korea, which first initiated liver cross-transplants (in 2002), only managed 52 cross-transplants in 16 years.