Ekonomi (ekonomim.com) · Vahap Munyar · January 29, 2024
Source: https://www.ekonomim.com/kose-yazisi/malatya-capraz-karaciger-naklinin-dunya-baskenti-oluyor/727073
Saved as PDF on November 2, 2026 · English translation by Google Translate; original in Turkish

Malatya is becoming the world capital of 'cross-liver transplantation'.



Vahap MUNYAR
DIALOGUE IN THE BUSINESS WORLD

Monday, January 29, 2024

Professor **Sezai Yılmaz , Director of the Liver Institute at İnönü University in Malatya** , made an important post on social media on Friday, January 26, 2024, at 3:26 PM:

The world's first six-liver cross-transplant was performed in Malatya...

Inonu University has achieved another groundbreaking success in the medical world. Thanks to this system, cross-liver transplantation has become a new hope for patients awaiting organ transplants, not only in our country but all over the world.

At İnönü University, the "Banu Bedestenci Sönmez Cross Liver Transplantation System," developed by Turkish economics professors Tayfun Sönmez and Utku Ünver from Boston College **, has enabled the world's first quadruple, quintuple, and now 6-liver transplants.**

Following this important announcement, I reviewed other posts related to the topic. I saw that the first post was made by the Minister of Health , Fahrettin Koca, at 2:37 PM :

The world's first sextuplet cross-liver transplant was performed at the Malatya İnönü University Liver Institute. The first sextuplet and sextuplet cross-liver transplants had previously been carried out at this center.

Cross-transplantation surgeries mean that when a patient has potential donors but cannot receive an organ from their own donor due to blood and tissue incompatibility, a transplant is performed from one donor to another recipient in the same situation.

The most advanced of these transplants, the six-liver cross transplant, is raising hope for patients awaiting transplants.

Minister **Koca** also included a video of Professor **Yılmaz explaining the operation in his post.**

I also expressed my pride in the success of Professor Yılmaz , the Director of the Liver Institute at Malatya İnönü University, and his team, on social media at 3:39 PM.

At 16:52, my former colleague **Mesude**

Erşan , who spent years as a health editor at Hürriyet, sent me the news she wrote for " diken.com.tr ," where she now works :

- This time I outsmarted you, Vahap Abi...

When I wrote that Prof. **Sezai Yılmaz** and his team had performed the first five-liver cross-transplant using the formula developed by Prof. **Tayfun Sönmez** and Prof. **Utku Ünver, Mesude** expressed her regret:

- You fooled me...

Just to tease Mesude, I asked her what time she published the news, and she replied:

- At 15:48... I waited for the Health Minister's statement because I had promised. I'd known for days...

To learn more about the matter, I visited İnönü University's website and read Professor **Sezai Yılmaz** 's statement in the news report by **Ayşegül Aşantoğrul** and **Nihan Doğan from the " İNÜHABER** " team :

In the x6 cross-liver transplant, there were 6 recipients and 6 donors. We performed the operation simultaneously in 12 of our operating rooms.

Our Liver Transplant Institute has a capacity of 12 operating rooms. We have 36 intensive care units and 116 patient beds.

Our hospital operated at full capacity during the transplant. We performed this operation with over 100 people.

Our colleagues from the surgical and anesthesia departments, our intensive care unit staff, nurses, and technicians were all on their feet. The operation started at 8:00 AM. I believe all the operations were completed without any problems around 8:00 PM.

"Our patients are also doing quite well. They are all in intensive care. The recipients are also in good general condition. We have previously successfully performed triple, quadruple and quintuple cross liver transplants," he recalled.

We previously shared our experience with quadruple cross-liver transplantation with the world medical literature. An article was published in a highly reputable journal.

We are now preparing articles on both quintuple and 6-member cross-liver transplants for another prestigious medical journal. In the coming days, our quintuple and 6-member cross-liver transplants may also be included in the medical literature.

Prof. **Sezai Yılmaz** emphasized that Malatya will become the " **world capital of cross-liver transplantation** ".

- Of the 11 triple cross-transplants performed worldwide to date, 9 were carried out in Malatya. So far, we have performed four quadruple cross-transplants, two quintuple cross-transplants, and one sextuple cross-transplant in Malatya.

He reiterated that quadruple, quintuple, and sextuple cross-liver transplants were performed for the first time in the world in Malatya.

- 80-90% of cross-liver transplants worldwide have been performed in Malatya. To date, 85 liver patients have been given a new lease on life through the "cross-transplant" formula **we have implemented with** the "Banu Bedestenci Sönmez Liver Transplant System" **.**

Inönü University Rector Prof. **Ahmet Kızılay** , Liver Institute Director Prof. **Sezai Yılmaz** and their team experienced the devastating effects of the February 6, 2023 Pazarcık and Elbistan earthquakes in Malatya.

None of them, especially Professor **Yılmaz** , even considered leaving Malatya. They focused on continuing their work in Malatya and saving more lives.

With Professor **Yılmaz** paving the way for Rector Professor **Kızılay** , the adoption of the " **cross-transplant formula " by the duo of Professor Tayfun Sönmez** and Professor **Utku Ünver** has already made Malatya the " **world capital** " in this field...

The interest you showed 6 years ago had a serious motivating effect, we believed in you.

Professor **Utku Ünver , a faculty member in the** economics department at **Boston** College (USA) , wrote the following message under my social media post about the success of the " **six-way cross-liver transplant " led by Professor Sezai Yılmaz** at the Malatya İnönü University Liver Institute :



Mr. Vahap, thank you so much for your support. It is a great honor for us to support these wonderful people.

The interest you showed 6 years ago was frankly a serious motivation for both Professor Tayfun Sönmez and me.

Our belief that we can create a system

in Türkiye has increased.

In May 2018, during President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan 's visit to the UK, I met with Dalınç Arıburnu,** the founder of Centricus, along with **Mehmet Soysal,** who was then the CEO of Hürriyet Newspaper . **Arıburnu** shared the following information at that time:

- I'm a childhood friend of Professor Tayfun Sönmez, a faculty member at Boston College. Professor Sönmez and his friend Professor Utku Ünver and I have started working on establishing an "Organ Exchange Center" in Turkey **, and we've made considerable progress. The Ministry of Health has been very supportive of the project.**

My article was featured on the front page of Hürriyet, and the then Minister of Health indicated that he was not very receptive to the idea.