

# **Current Trends in Liver Transplantation**

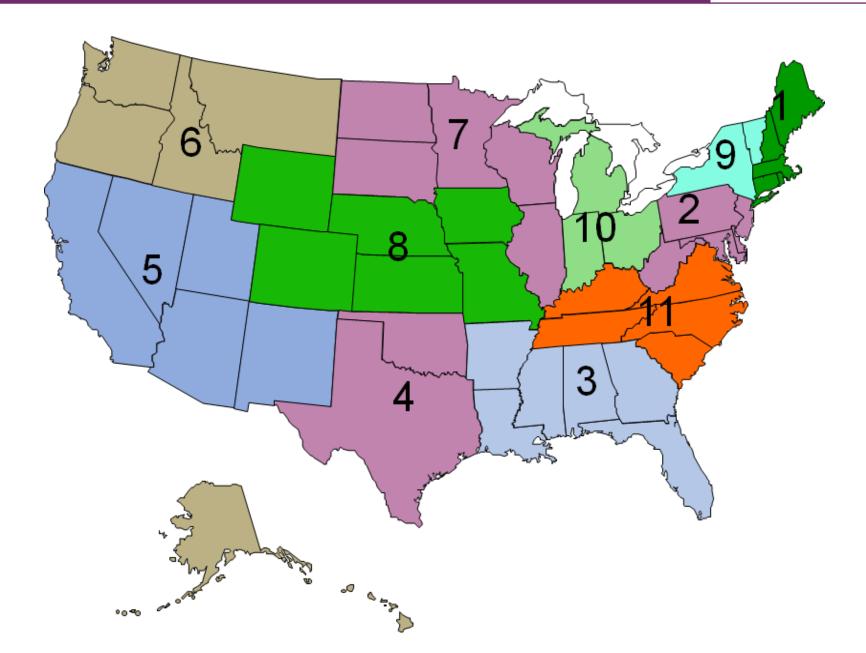
Christopher B. Hughes, MD Surgical Director, Liver Transplantation I have no disclosures.



Recent changes to liver allocation and MELD exceptions that have affected liver transplantation:

- 1. Conversion from "Regional" to "Concentric Circle " allocation
- 2. Move to NATIONAL Liver Review Board for MELD exceptions
- 3. Change in HCC MELD exception rules

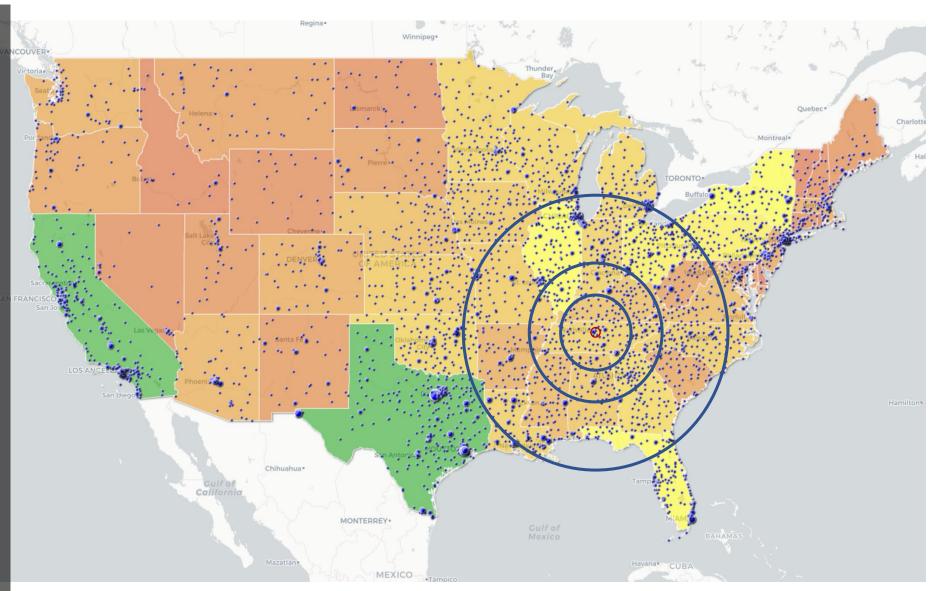




# Concentric Circle Liver Distribution



### **PRIORITY** 500 mi Status 1 150 mi MELD 37+ MELD 37+ 250 mi 500 mi MELD 37+ 150 mi MELD 33+ MELD 33+ 250 mi 500 mi MELD 33+ 150 mi MELD 29+ 250 mi MELD 29+ MELD 29+ 500 mi 150 mi MELD 15+ 250 mi MELD 15+ 500 mi MELD 15+



# Concentric Circle Liver Distribution



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150 mi MELD 29+

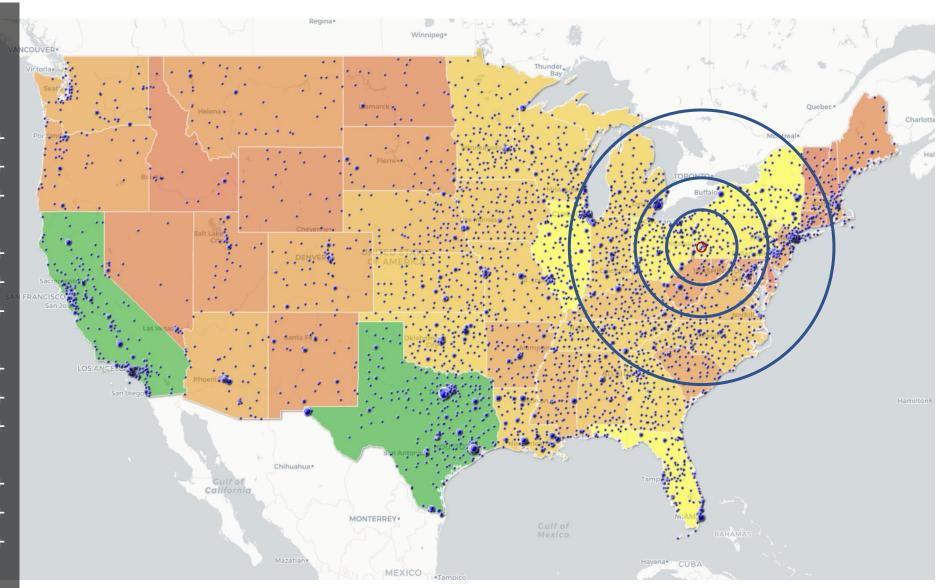
250 mi MELD 29+

500 mi MELD 29+

150 mi MELD 15+

250 mi MELD 15+

500 mi MELD 15+



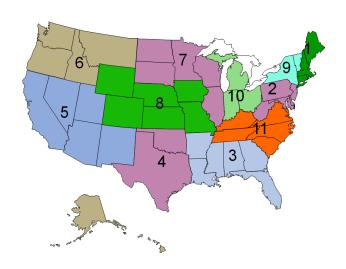
# National Liver Review Board



# Guidance to Liver Transplant Programs and the National Liver Review Board for:

### **Adult MELD Exception Review**

Ascites	3
Budd Chiari	3
Gastrointestinal Bleeding	4
Hepatic Encephalopathy	5
Hepatic Epithelioid Hemangioendothelioma	5
Hepatic Hydrothorax	5
Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia	6
Multiple Hepatic Adenomas	7
Neuroendocrine Tumors (NET)	7
Polycystic Liver Disease (PLD)	8
Portopulmonary Hypertension	9
Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis or Secondary Sclerosing Cholangitis	9
Metabolic Disease	10
Post-Transplant Complications	10
Small for Size Syndrome	10
Chronic Rejection	10
Diffuse Ischemic Cholangiopathy	11
Late Vascular Complications	11
Pruritus	11



### Ascites—NLRB Recommendations



".....MELD exception for ascites is not recommended."

--Hyponatremia and elevated creatinine (renal failure) should eventually increase MELD so the patient moves up the list

Bottom line: MELD exceptions are more difficult to obtain, so patients are sicker by the time they receive a deceased-donor organ

# Hepatocellular Carcinoma Exception

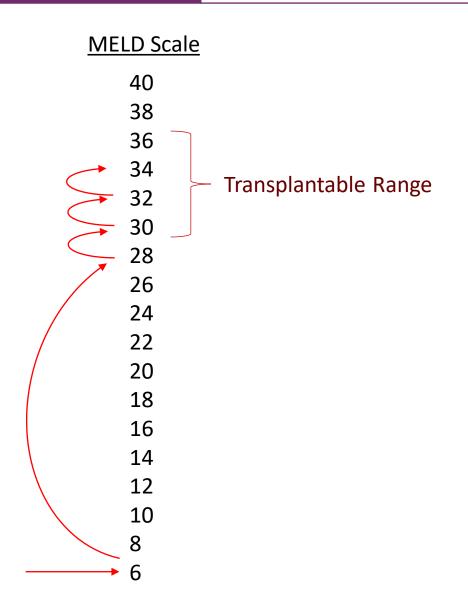


If patient is within Milan Criteria (one tumor < 5cm or 3 tumors < 3 cm) they may be eligible for MELD exception

Prior System: MELD score of 6 for 6 months, then MELD 28, then increase MELD score 10% every 3 months (cap 34)

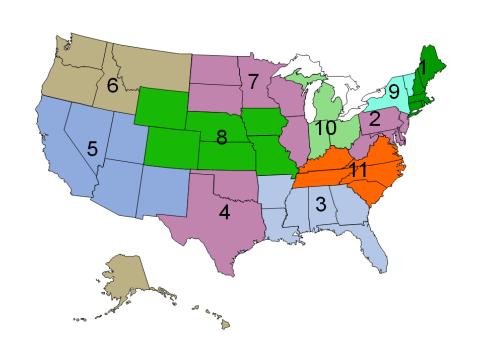
Would generally take about a year to get a person into transplantable range

UNOS data showed HCC patients may be disproportionately advantaged by this system

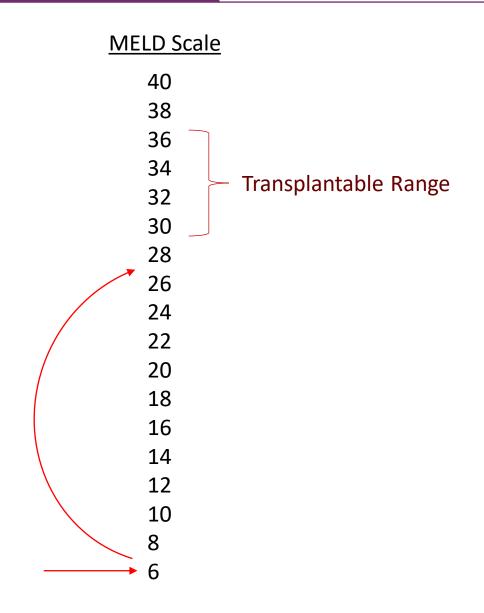


# HCC Exception based on "Median MELD at Transplant"

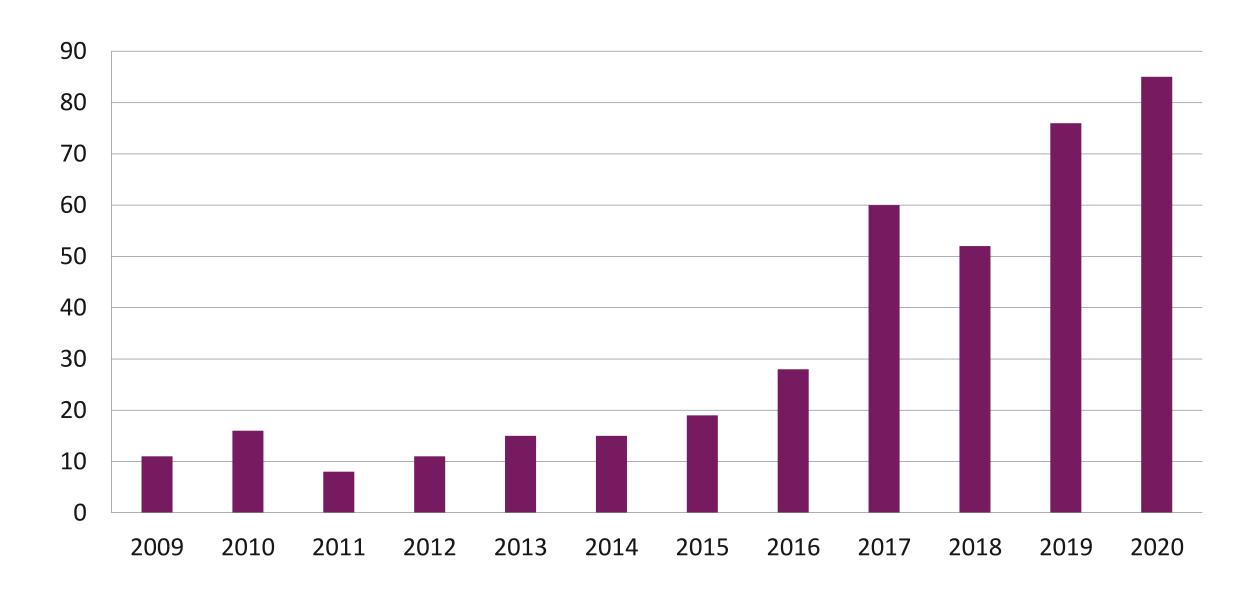




Current System: MELD score of 6 for 6 months, then MMaT-3







# 1-year LDLT GRAFT AND PATIENT SURVIVAL



	GRAFT SURVIVAL (%)	PATIENT SURVIVAL (%)
OBSERVED	92.2	93.0
EXPECTED	91.1	95.6
NATIONAL	91.1	95.6

Good results allow us to take on high-risk cases, such as advanced tumor cases:

Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma and Mixed HCC/CCA Metastatic Colorectal Cancer





65 yo female with NASH cirrhosis

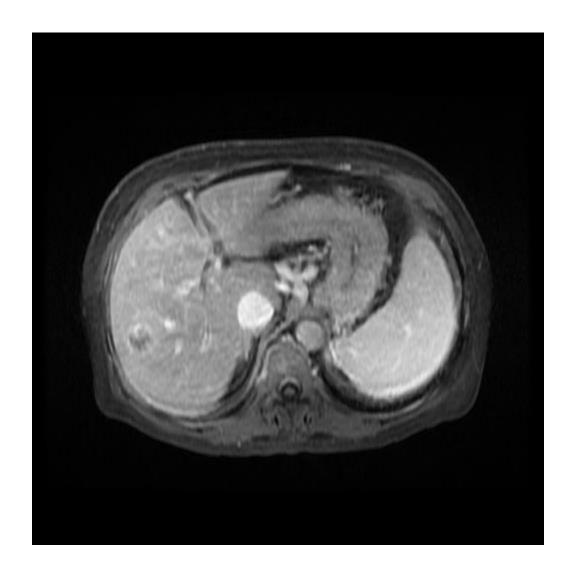
Hepatic encephalopathy, SR shunt

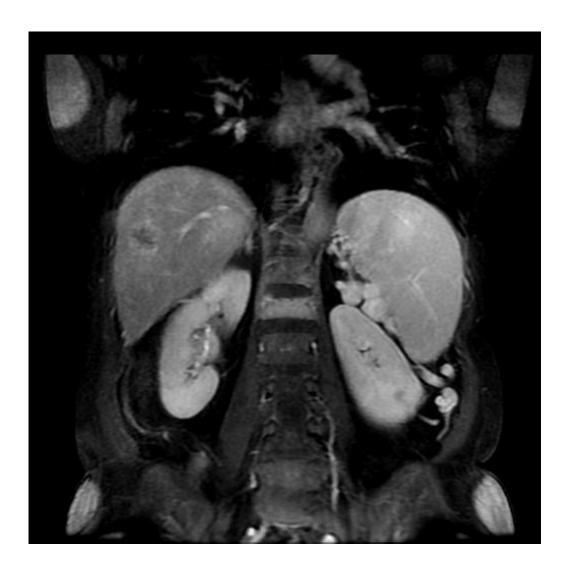
Dec 2018 USG showed 3.5 cm mass in right lobe

3/5/19 bx shows mixed HCC-Cholangiocarcinoma
In April 2019, her AFP was 105, and CA-19-9 was < 2
TACE in May 2019
Started Gemcitabine/Cisplatin in May 2019—continued for 6 months

Negative workup for extrahepatic disease including negative bone scan







3.5 cm Mixed HCC/CCA in segment 5/6

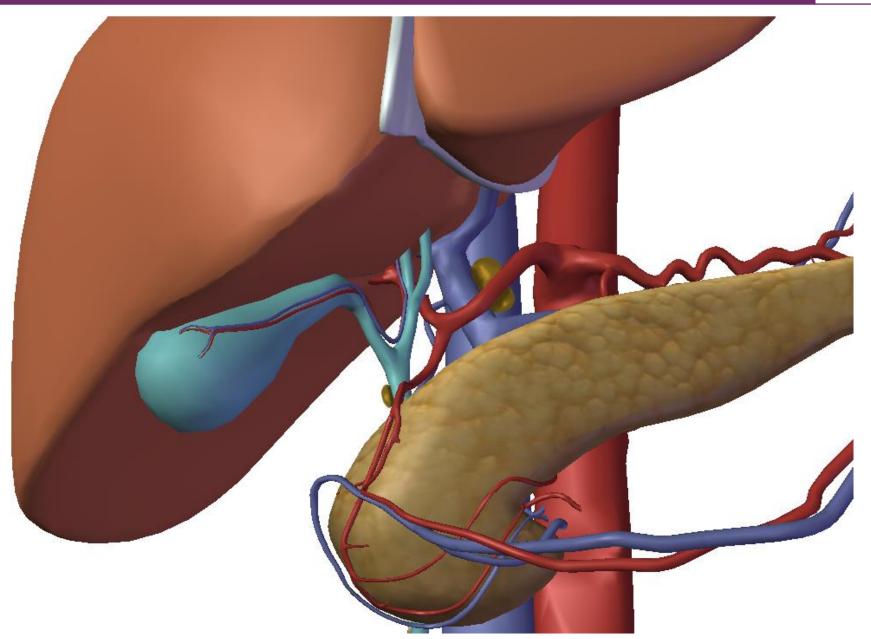


LDLT 11/1/19

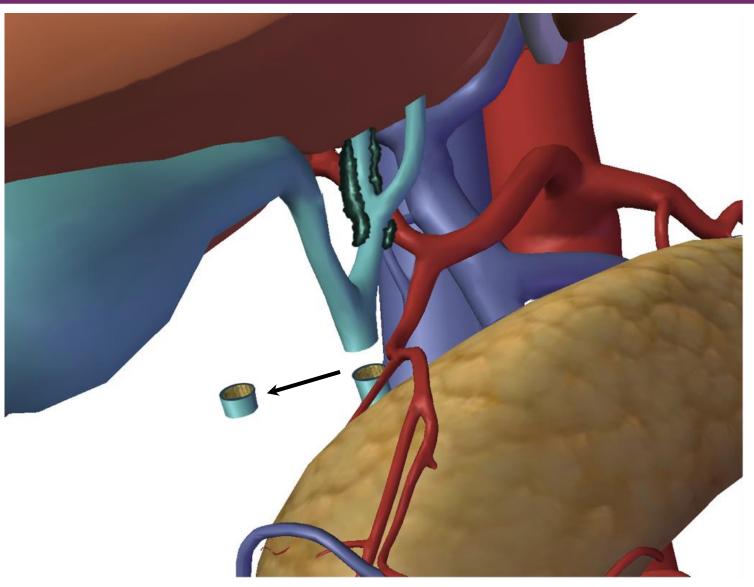
Donor = son

Explore recipient first, no extrahepatic disease

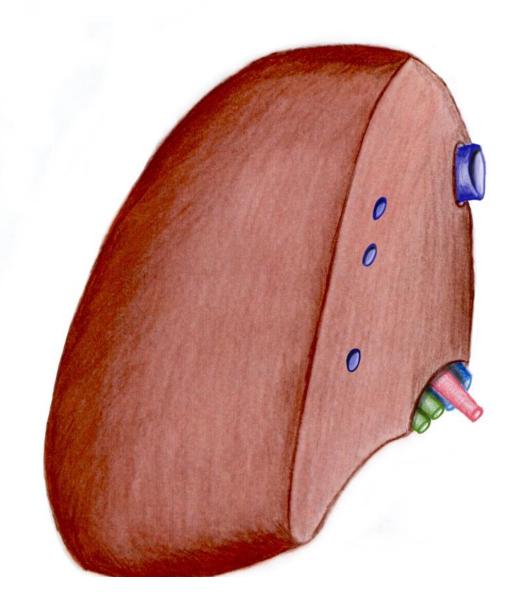


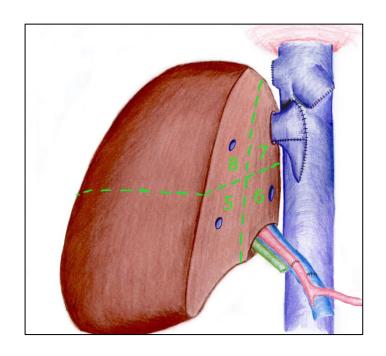




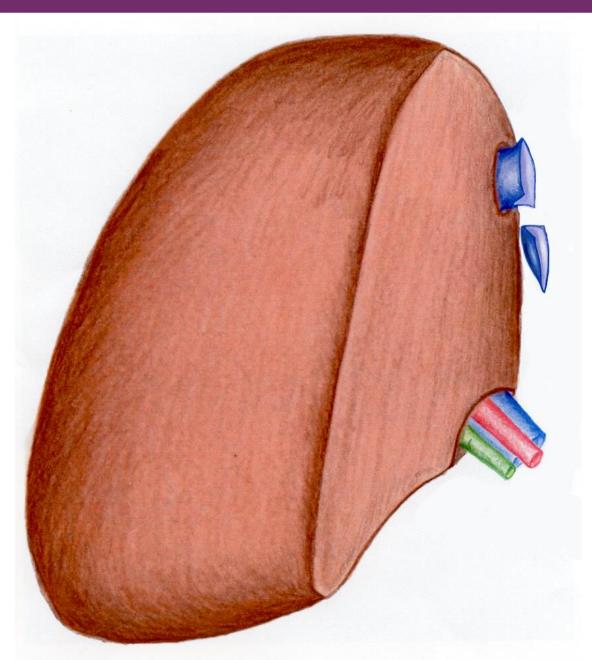




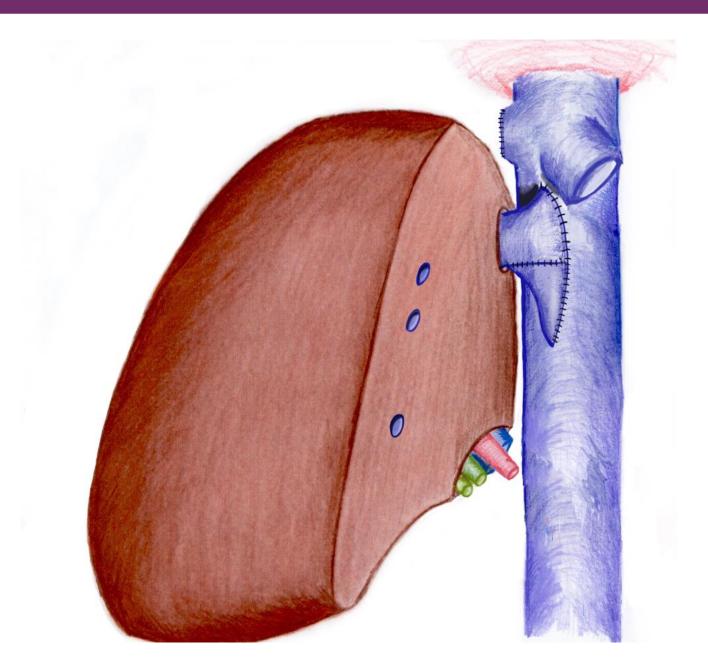




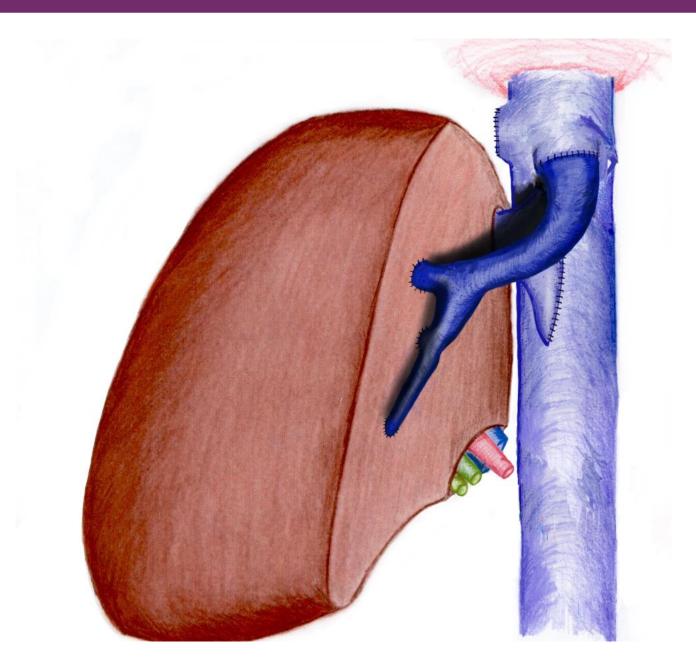




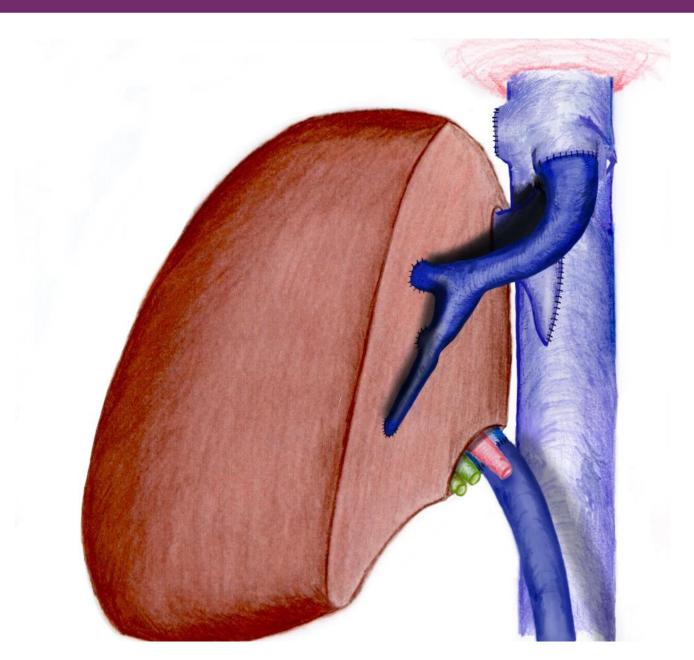




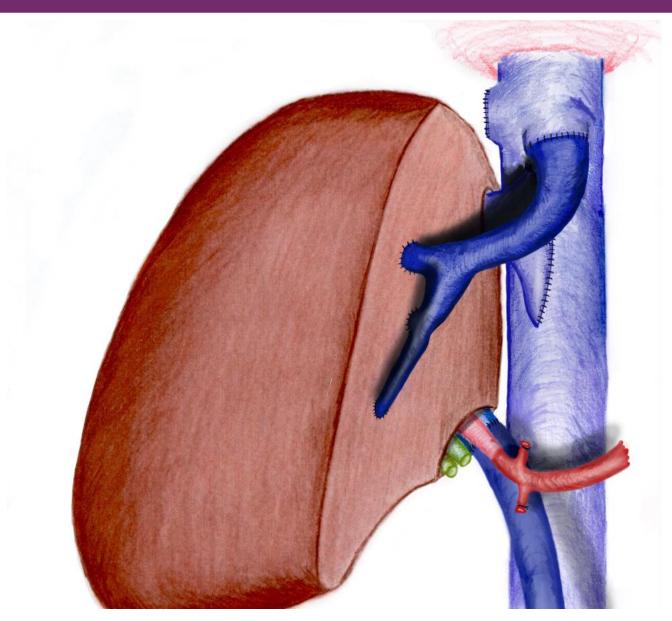




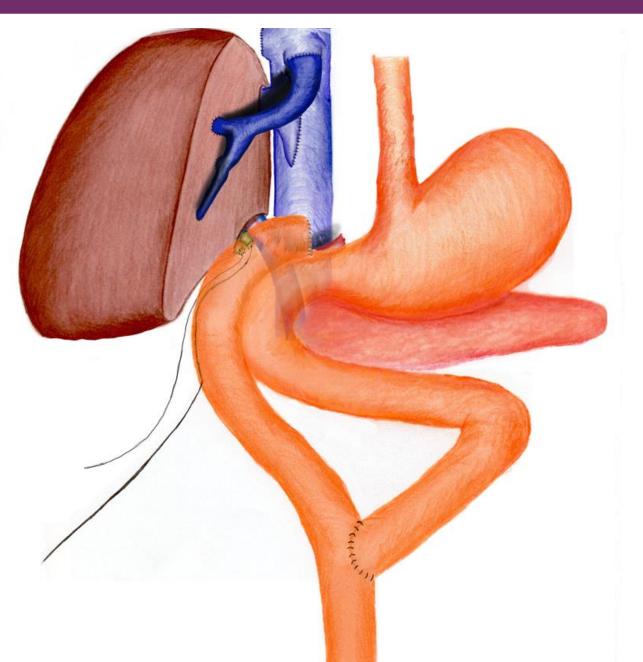




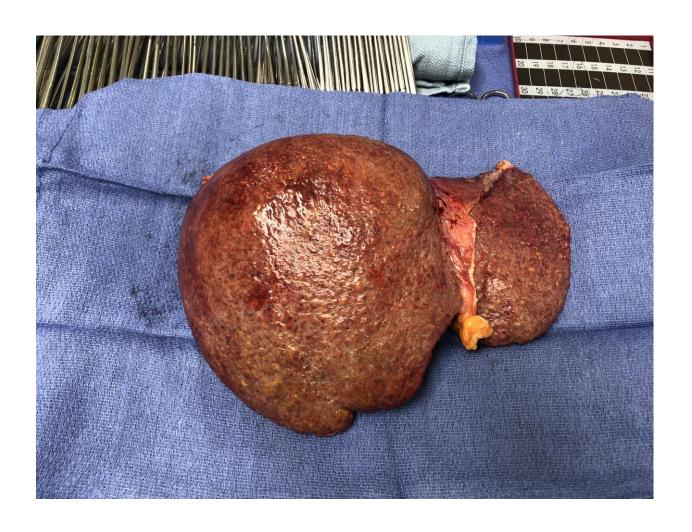


















### Explant Pathology

NATIVE LIVER (1313 GRAMS), LIVING RELATED LIVER TRANSPLANT:

MODERATELY DIFFERENTIATED PRIMARILY

HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA WITH

MICROSCOPIC FOCI OF HISTOCHEMICAL AND

IMMUNOPHENOTYPIC EVIDENCE OF

CHOLANGIOLAR DIFFERENTIATION, SEGMENT 5/6,

5.5 CM IN GREATEST DIMENSION,

STATUS POST TACE THERAPY (SEE COMMENT).

Nodes Negative.



No chemo post-op

No evid mets at 1 year



### Colorectal Metastasis—Patient FT



66 yo male from Shreveport, LA



Liver lesion biopsied showing adenocarcinoma

Rectal adenocarcinoma, 3 cm, largely removed by colonoscopy, T3N0M1 (stage IVA)

December 2016--Started FOLFOX, continued through April 2017

January 2017—Y90 to whole liver

May 2017—PET scan shows complete response (no uptake in region of rectum or liver)

August 2017—recurrent disease in right lobe of liver, restarted FOLFOX/Avastin FOLFOX 10 cycles through July 2018

Avastin d/c'd May 2018 after GI bleed

May 2018—colonoscopy negative and biopsies of previous area negative

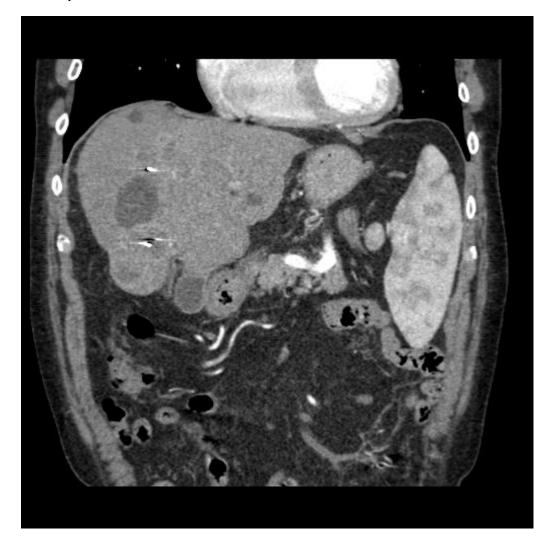
June 2018—Near complete response via PET in liver, pelvis still negative

September 2018—tumor increased in liver
--started FOLFIRI with partial response

September 2019—Presented to UPMC for transplant evaluation



Preop CT 8/21/19





\*PET scan negative except for liver uptake



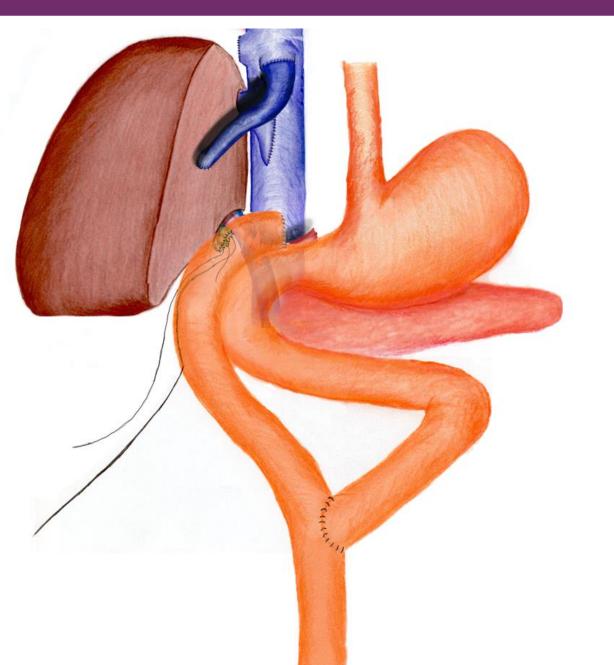
### 11/11/19

Ex lap, no evid extrahepatic disease

### PATH:

MESENTERIC NODULE WITH FAT NECROSIS, FIBROBLASTIC PROLIFERATION AND FOCAL SCLEROTIC VENOPATHY; NO EVIDENCE OF MALIGNANCY.





Donor = Son
RHV to RHV
MHV Jump to M/L HV
RHA to RHA
3 RHD sewn as single, 2 ext, 1 int



### FINAL DIAGNOSIS:

NATIVE LIVER, HEPATECTOMY (1289 GRAMS):

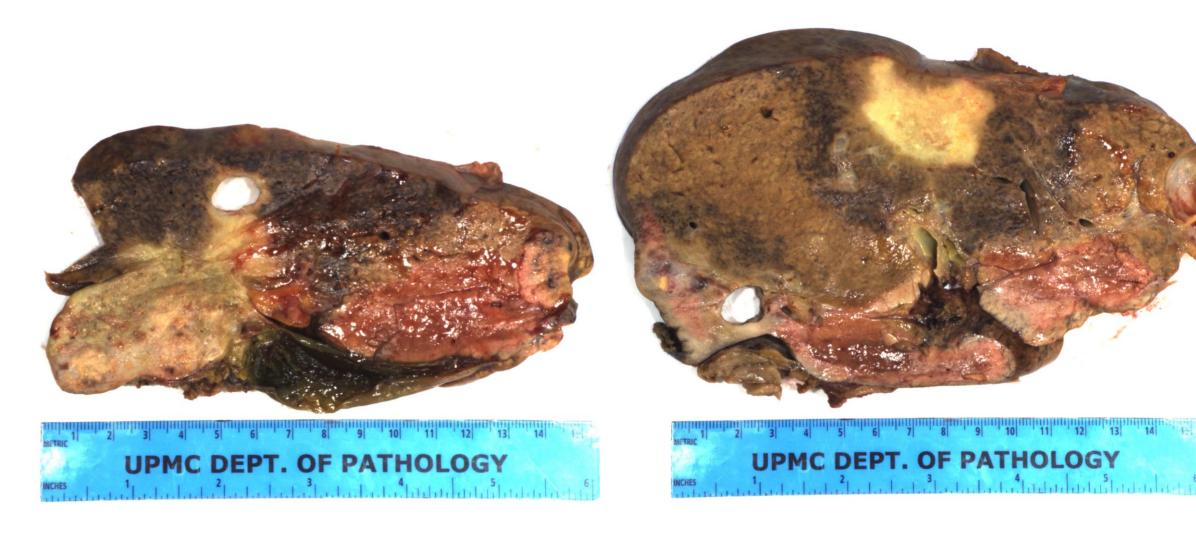
POORLY DIFFERENTIATED CARCINOMA: 4 SEPARATE LESIONS, PARTLY NECROTIC, (LARGEST 8.3 CM)

SURGICAL RESECTION MARGINS NEGATIVE FOR CARCINOMA

NO PDL-1 EXPRESSION IN TUMOR CELLS (<1% OF CELLS)

NUMEROUS INTRAVASCULAR RADIOEMBOLIC BEADS WITHIN THE TUMOR







Now 1-year 1-month post-transplant with no evidence of recurrent disease





### Conclusion:

UNOS continues to try to make the system of organ distribution equitable, but the problem remains—not enough organs.

LDLT provides options for patients waitlisted with standard indications or those who otherwise might have no option for transplant.