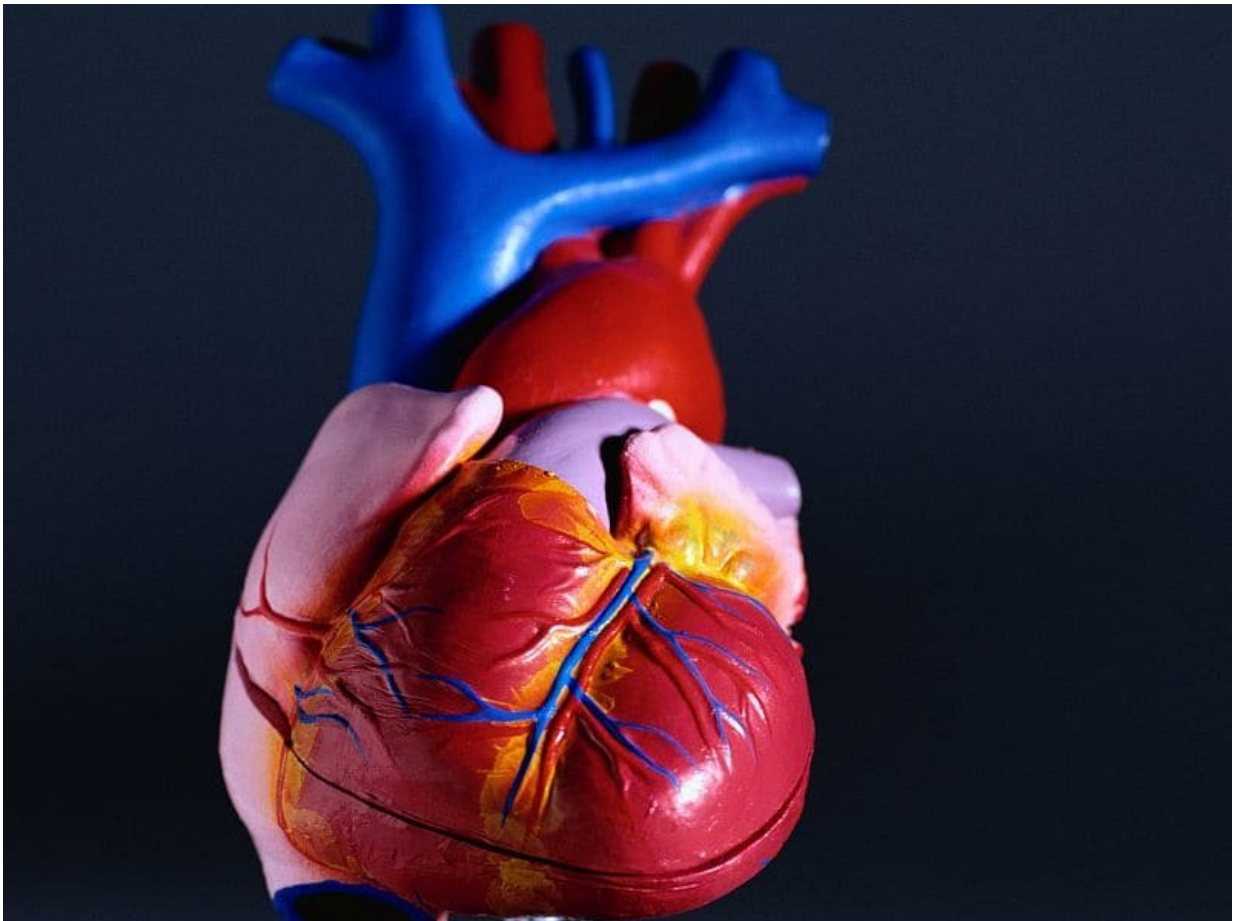


Increase observed in hearts from drug-intoxicated donors

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(HealthDay)—Heart transplants using drug-intoxicated donors have

significantly increased, but their use does not seem to adversely impact post-transplant survival, according to a study recently published in the *American Journal of Transplantation*.

Mickey S. Ising, M.D., from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Kentucky, and colleagues used data from the United Network of Organ Sharing thoracic transplant and deceased [donor](#) databases to identify patients undergoing [heart](#) transplantation between 2005 and 2015. To assess annual trends in donor death mechanisms and the impact on post-transplant survival, recipients were propensity-matched in a 1-to-2 ratio (drug-intoxicated-to-non-drug-intoxicated). Over the study period, 19,384 donor hearts were used for transplant.

The researchers found that there was an increase in the use of drug-intoxicated donors from 2 percent in 2005 to 13 percent in 2015. There was a simultaneous decrease in donors with deaths from blunt injury (40 to 30 percent) and intracranial hemorrhage (29 to 25 percent). At one, three, and five years, post-transplant survival of drug-intoxicated donor hearts (90, 82, and 76 percent, respectively) was similar to that of non-drug-intoxicated [donor hearts](#).

"Heart transplants using drug-intoxicated donors have significantly increased; however, they have not adversely affected post-transplant survival," the authors write. "Hearts from drug-intoxicated donors should be carefully evaluated and considered for [transplant](#)."

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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