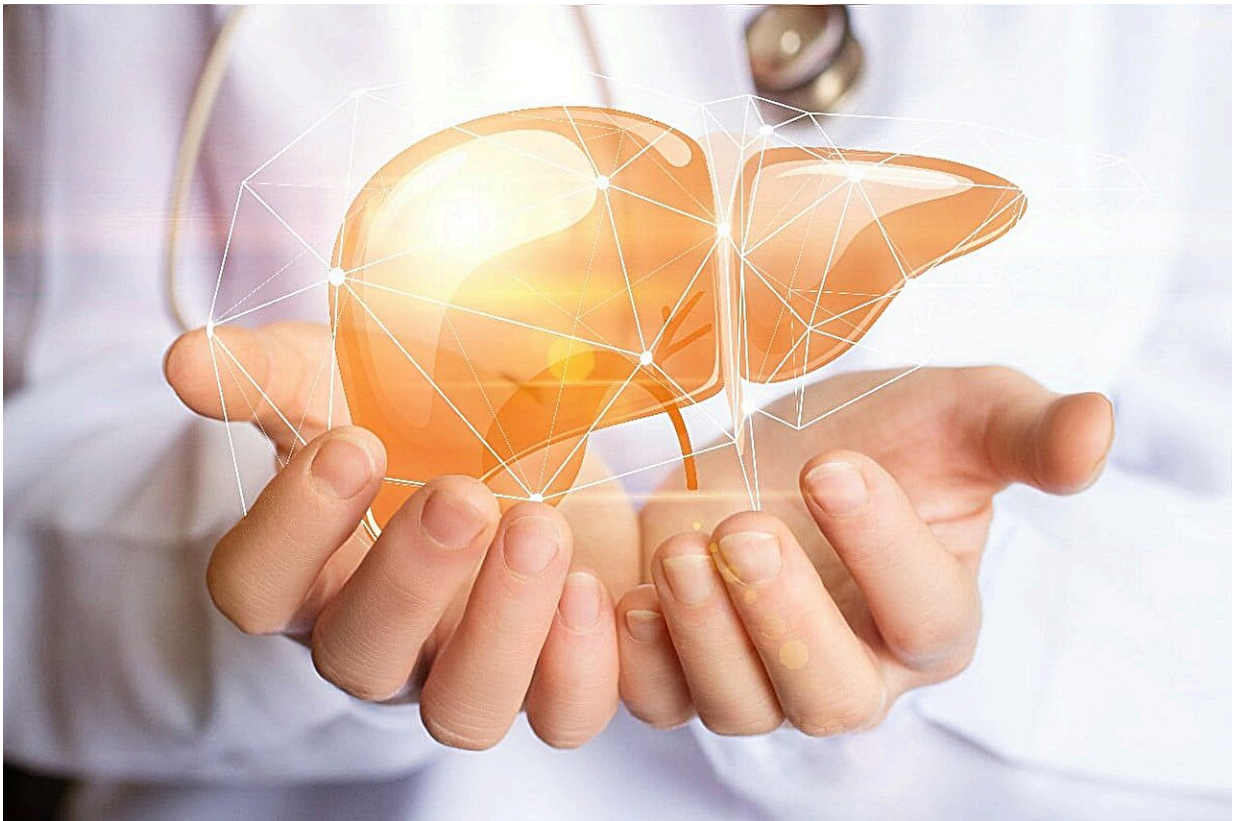


# Liver grafts feasible from hep C-positive donors after circulatory death

September 4 2024, by Lori Solomon

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Liver grafts from hepatitis C virus-positive (HCV+) donation after circulatory death (DCD) donors have one-year patient and graft survival comparable with that of donation after brain death (DBD) liver grafts

from donors with or without HCV infection, according to a study [published](#) online Aug. 22 in *Transplantation*.

Sai Rithin Punjala, M.D., from The Ohio State University in Columbus, and colleagues evaluated organ utilization and outcomes of liver grafts from DCD donors with HCV infection. The analysis included national registry and local center data of all deceased donor liver transplants performed between November 2016 and December 2021.

The researchers found that out of 146 U.S. liver transplant centers, [liver transplants](#) were not performed from DCD donors, HCV-positive donors, and a combination of DCD and HCV-positive donors by 28.7, 27, and 70 to 72% of centers, respectively. An increasing center acceptance ratio was associated with increased utilization of liver grafts from DCD HCV-negative and DCD HCV antibody-positive nucleic acid test negative donors. Overall, one-year [graft survival](#) of HCV-negative DCD liver grafts was lower compared with other groups (89 versus 92% HCV-positive DCD versus 93% HCV-positive DBD versus 92% HCV-negative DBD).

"These results encourage the widespread use of liver grafts from DCD and HCV-positive donors and standardization of practice in DCD donation to expand the donor pool without compromising short-term outcomes," the authors write.

**More information:** Sai Rithin Punjala et al, Outcomes of Liver Transplantation From Hepatitis C Virus–positive DCD Donors and Its Utilization Among Centers in the United States, *Transplantation* (2024). [DOI: 10.1097/TP.0000000000005174](https://doi.org/10.1097/TP.0000000000005174)

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