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The Liver

The organ being discussed in the following paragraphs is the liver. This particular organ is located on the right side of the body and is protected by the rib cage, that is why in normal situation, you cannot feel it. The liver, brick in color, weighs about 3 pounds and is rubbery to the touch. It consists of 2 large parts or lobes: the left and the right. Attached to the liver is the gallbladder, which can be located towards the bottom of the liver. The gallbladder can also be found sitting with parts of the intestines and the pancreas. All of these organs together these organs digest, absorb, and process food.

The liver overall job is to take the blood that is coming from the digestive track and filter. This process of cleaning the blood starts in the stomach. All the blood leaving the stomach and intestines passes through the liver. The liver is a very important "weight station" in the blood's journey through our body. Health scientists think of the liver as the body's chemical plant & inspection station. It processes blood, breaking down the nutrients and chemicals blood carries. Waste is excreted as a product called bile. Bile from the liver helps break down fats and prepare it for further digestion & absorption. It works magically on the food we eat. The biliary system is also in the liver. It is made up of two ducts (gallbladder and bile) . All alone the liver performs 500 functions.

The liver may seem like one of the greatest organs in our body, which it is, but sometimes even the greatest can sustain an injury or two. The liver, just like any other body part, get get infected with disease. One disease that the liver have effect it is Hepatitis, which is the inflammation of the liver. There are 5 types of Hepatitis but, right now we are only going to talk about the first three. The first and most common types of this disease is Hepatitis A. This types is caused by consuming food or water infected with HAV(Hepatitis A Virus). It can also be spread by anal-oral contact while performing sexual intercourse. Almost everyone infected with Hepatitis A makes a full recovery. The next, which is an STD(sexually transmitted disease), is Hepatitis B can infect a person that has come in contact with blood, semen, or other bodily fluid containing HBV(Hepatitis B Virus). It can be spread by unprotected sex, the use of HBV infected syringes, unsterilized needles, breast milk produced by an infected mother, and being bitten by an infected person. This type can cause cancer, when the liver suffers serious damage. The last one that is going to be discussed is Hepatitis C which can be spread through direct contact with blood containing HCV(Hepatitis C Virus). This causes the liver to swell and can cause it to become damaged. Liver cancer risk in patients with Hepatitis C is increased in people with cirrhosis, which is a liver condition that causes irreversible scarring to the liver. 20% of people with Hepatitis C get cirrhosis.

In a year more than six thousand liver transplants occur in the United States. About seventeen thousand individuals are on the waiting list, which increases each and everyday of the year. The amount of time a person spends on the waiting list depends on his/her blood type, body size, and stage of liver diseases, overall health, and the availability of a matching liver. A factor that is important in transplanting livers is that they regenerate. This means that you can peices of the liver can be donated during a liver transplant. The largest age group to receive a liver transplant is between fifty and sixty-five years of age. Patients usually return to a stable and healthy lifestyle six months to a year after a successful surgery, and for some the liver disease may sometimes return causing them to take medications or even undergo another surgery. Below are the statistic for for the number of liver transplants done around the world:

Rank	Countries	Amount
#1	Spain:	694 liver transplants
#2	Germany:	670 liver transplants
#3	Italy:	528 liver transplants
#4	Canada:	329 liver transplants
#5	France:	282 liver transplants
#6	Belgium:	218 liver transplants
#7	Portugal:	180 liver transplants
#8	Austria:	148 liver transplants
#9	Brazil:	147 liver transplants
#10	Sweden:	143 liver transplants
#11	Japan:	141 liver transplants
#12	Australia:	135 liver transplants
#13	Netherlands:	111 liver transplants
#14	Argentina:	99 liver transplants
=15	Turkey:	84 liver transplants
=15	Switzerland:	84 liver transplants
#17	Colombia:	77 liver transplants
#18	Chile:	51 liver transplants
#19	Finland:	49 liver transplants
# 20	Oman:	44 liver transplants
=21	Poland:	40 liver transplants
=21	Czech Republic:	40 liver transplants
#23	New Zealand:	38 liver transplants
=24	Norway:	25 liver transplants
=24	Israel:	25 liver transplants
=24	Croatia:	25 liver transplants
=27	Saudi Arabia:	12 liver transplants
=27	South Africa:	12 liver transplants
#29	Mexico:	6 liver transplants
Total:		4,437 liver transplants
Weighted average:		153.0 liver transplants

In order to receive a liver transplant the recipient must undergo extensive testing that is ran by the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) due to the wide range of information that determines the recipients eligibility for the procedure. During and after the procedure you are required to stay in the hospital. You will be monitored for several days in the ICU. When the doctors feels that you are ready, you then will be put into a private room on a regular nurse or transplant unit. You will eventually start to recover and you will be discharged where the team will teach you to take care of yourself.

For example: It's important that you keep the surgical area clean and dry therefore you will also receive specific bathing instructions.

A recent breakthrough in medical history has shown a way to stimulate the production of vital liver cells or hepatocytes that could eventually lead to new treatments of chronic liver illness.

In conclusion, the liver plays a major role in every organism on Earth that is lucky enough to receive one and it is especially a vital organ with a wide range of functions in terms of an organism's digestive system. It also plays a major role in metabolism, which is the set of life-sustaining chemical conversions inside the cells of living organisms. It is most likely that, without a liver, life for almost all organisms is almost impossible.

