

Documents

Rodriguez-Davalos, M.I.^a, Lopez-Verdugo, F.^{a b}, Kasahara, M.^c, Muiesan, P.^d, Reddy, M.S.^e, Flores-Huidobro Martinez, A.^{a f}, Xia, Q.^g, Hong, J.C.^h, Niemann, C.U.^{i j}, Seda-Neto, J.^k, Miloh, T.A.^l, Yi, N.-J.^m, Mazariegos, G.V.ⁿ, Ng, V.L.^o, Esquivel, C.O.^p, Lerut, J.^q, Rela, M.^{e r}, Botha, J.^s, Mehta, N.N.^t, Bakar Hafeez Bhatti, A.^u, Zamora-Valdes, D.^v, Anand^w, Superina, R.^x, De Kleine, R.^y, Matamoros, M.A.^z, Bedregal-Mendoza, T.^{aa}, Steve Bynon, J.^{ab}, Rodriguez-Sancho, L.C.^{ac}, Langnas, A.^{ad}, Dhawan, A.^{ae}, Ogura, Y.^{af}, Vianna, R.^{ag}, Ilyassova, B.^{ah}, Tantemsapya, N.^{ai}, Bellemare, S.^{aj}, Ovchinsky, N.^{aj}, Bhalerao, S.^{ak}, Balci, D.^{al}, Dip, M.^{am}, Imventarza, O.^{an}, Mangus, R.S.^{ao}, Fawcett, J.^{ap}, Antonini, T.M.^{aq}, Shrima, A.^{ar}, Zhu, Z.-J.^{as}, Rivera, J.^{at}, Dayangac, M.^{au}, McCall, J.^{av}, Utz Melere, M.^{aw}, Stormon, M.^{ax}, Mizuta, K.^{ay}, Gao, W.^{az}, Hening Rahayatri, T.^{ba}, Costaguta, A.^{bb}, Gautier, S.^{bc}, Kazemi, K.^{bd}, Martinez-Castillo, J.^{be}, Apinyachon, W.^{bf}, Rastogi, M.^{bg}, Restrepo, J.C.^{bh}, Takahito, Y.^{bi}, Ravichandra, S.^{bj}, Vanin, A.^{bk}, Vieira, S.^{bl}, Luque, C.^{bm}, Gondolesi, G.^{bn}, Hashimoto, K.^{bo}, Yazigi, N.^{bp}, Lebel, S.^{bq}, Mavis, A.^{br}, Arnon, R.^{bs}, Chavez-Vargas, R.^{bt}, Elisofon, S.^{bu}, Desai, D.M.^{bv}, Okajima, H.^{bw}, Chinnakotla, S.^{bx}, Hsu, E.^{by}, Reyes, J.^{by}, Orgoi, S.^{bz}, Raut, V.^{ca}, Hee Oh, S.^{cb}, Valentino, P.^{cc}, Emre, S.^{cc}, Spada, M.^{cd}, Leung, D.^{ce}, Charco, R.^{cf}, Ericzon, B.-G.^{cg}, Fischer, R.^{ch}, Del Rio-Martin, J.V.^{ci}, Cillo, U.^{cj}, Soliman, H.^{ck}, Varela-Fascinetto, G.^{cl}, De Villa, V.^{cm}, Haberal, M.^{cn}, Covarrubias, J.^{co}, Colledan, M.^{cp}, De Ville De Goyet, J.^{cq}, Desai, C.^{cr}, Sundaram, S.^{cs}, Fronek, J.^{ct}, Nadig, S.N.^{cu}, Mali, V.P.^{cv}, Tandoi, F.^{cw}, Kohli, R.^{cx}, Mohan, N.^{cy}, Goyal, N.^{cz}, Santhosh, D.^{da}, Debray, D.^{db}, Durmaz, O.^{dc}, De Bruyne, R.^{dd}, Kaliciński, P.^{de}, Hierro, L.^{df}, Venick, R.^{dg}, Perito, E.^{dh}, Mozer-Glassberg, Y.^{di}, Chen, C.-L.^{dj}, Rand, E.^{dk}, Nikeghbalian, S.^{dl}, Kelly, D.^{dm}, Boillot, O.^{dn}, Book, L.S.^{dn}, for the Pediatric Liver Transplantation Global Census Group^{do}

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^a Liver Transplant Unit, Intermountain Primary Children's Hospital, The Center for Global Surgery, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, United States

^b School of Medicine, Tecnologico de Monterrey, Mexico City, Mexico

^c Organ Transplantation Center, National Center for Child Health and Development, Tokyo, Japan

^d Liver Unit, Birmingham Children's Hospital Nhs Foundation Trust, Birmingham, United Kingdom

^e The Institute of Liver Disease and Transplantation, Dr. Rela Institute and Medical Centre, Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research, Chennai, India

^f School of Medicine, Universidad Anahuac, Mexico City, Mexico

^g Department of Liver Surgery and Liver Transplantation, Renji Hospital, Shanghai, China

^h Division of Transplant Surgery, Department of Surgery, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, United States

ⁱ Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Care, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, United States

^j Department of Surgery, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, United States

^k Department of Hepatology and Liver Transplantation, Hospital Sirio-Libanes, Sao Paulo, Brazil

^l Miami Transplant Institute, University of Miami, Miami, FL, United States

^m Department of Surgery, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul, South Korea

ⁿ Hillman Center for Pediatric Transplantation, Upmc Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, United States

^o Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, and Transplant and Regenerative Medicine Center, The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

^p Department of Abdominal Transplantation, Stanford University Medical Center, Palo Alto, CA, United States

^q Institute for Experimental and Clinical Research, Université Catholique Louvain, Brussels, Belgium

^r Institute of Liver Studies, King's College Hospital, London, United Kingdom

^s Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

^t Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi, India

^u Shifa International Hospital, Islamabad, Pakistan

^v Hospital Angeles, Chihuahua, Mexico

^w Kauvery Hospital, Chennai, India

^x Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, Chicago, United States

^y University Medical Center Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands

^z Centro de Trasplante Hepatico y Cirugia Hepatobiliar, San Jose, Costa Rica

^{aa} Hospital Edgardo Rebagliati Martins, Lima, Peru

Memorial Hermann Tmc, Houston, United States
ac Centro Medico Puerta de Hierro, Guadalajara, Mexico
ad University of Nebraska, Omaha, United States
ae King's College Hospital, London, United Kingdom
af Nagoya University Hospital, Nagoya, Japan
ag Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, United States
ah Syzganov's National Scientific Center of Surgery, Almaty, Kazakhstan
ai Siriraj Hospital Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand
aj Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, United States
ak Kem Hospital, Pune, India
al Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey
am Hospital de Pediatria Juan P. Garrahan, Buenos Aires, Argentina
an Indiana University Health, Indianapolis, United States
ao Lady Cilento Children's HospitalQLD, Australia
ap Paul Brosse Hospital, Lyon, France
aq Wockhardt Hospitals Ltd, Mumbai, India
ar Beijing Friendship Hospital, Beijing, China
as Fundacion Cardioinfantil Ic, Bogota, Colombia
at Medipol University Hospital, Istanbul, Turkey
au Auckland City Hospital, Auckland, New Zealand
av Hospital de Criança Santo Antonio, Porto Alegre, Brazil
aw The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney, Australia
ax Jichi Medical University, Tochigi, Japan
ay Tianjin First Center Hospital, Tianjin, China
az Cipto Mangunkusumo General Hospital, Jakarta, Indonesia
ba Sanatorio Parque de Rosario, Rosario, Argentina
bb National Medical Research Center of Transplantology and Artificial Organs, Moscow, Russian Federation
bc Shiraz Transplant Center, Shiraz, Iran
bd Pontifica Universidad Catolica de Chile, Santiago, Chile
be Ramathibodi Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand
bf Fortis Hospitals, Noida, Delhi, India
bg Hospital Pablo Tobon Uribe, Medellin, Colombia
bh Okayama University Hospital, Okayama, Japan
bi Global Hospital, Hyderabad, India
bj Centro Medico Imbanaco de Cali, Cali, Colombia
bk Memorial Atasehir Hospital, Istanbul, Turkey
bl Hospital Ricardo Gutierrez, Buenos Aires, Argentina
bm Fundacion Favaloro, Buenos Aires, Argentina
bn Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, United States
bo MedStar Georgetwon, Washington, United States
bp Phoenix Children's HospitalAZ, United States
bq Duke University Medical Center, Durham, United States
br Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City, United States
bs Christus Muguerza sur Ciudad Guadalupe, Mexico
bt Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, United States
bu Children's Medical Center Dallas, Dallas, United States
bv Kyoto University Hospital, Kyoto, Japan
bw University of Minnesota Masonic Children's HospitalMN, United States
bx Seattle Children's Hospital, Burien, United States
by Mongolian First Central Hospital, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
bz Apollo Hospitals Mumbai, Mumbai, India
ca Asan Medical Center, Seoul, South Korea
cb Yale University, New Haven, United States
cc Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, Rome, Italy
cd Texas Children s Hospital, Houston, United States
ce Hospital Vall d'Hebron, Barcelona, Spain
cf Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden
cg Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, United States
ch Hospital Auxilio Mutuo, San Juan, United States
ci University Padova, Padua, Italy
cj Menoufia University, Cairo, Egypt

- ck Hospital Infantil de Mexico Federico Gomez, Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico
- cl The Medical City, Pasig, Philippines
- cm Baskent University, Ankara, Turkey
- cn Unidad de Hepatologia y Trasplante Infantil, Guadalajara, Mexico
- co Asst Papa Giovanni Xxiii, Bergamo, Italy
- cp Ismett, Palermo, Italy
- cq University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, United States
- cr Children's Hospital Colorado, Aurora, United States
- cs Ikem Hospital, Prague, Czech Republic
- ct Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, United States
- cu National University Hospital, Singapore, Singapore
- cv Aou Citta della Salute e della Scienza, Torino, Italy
- cw Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles, United States
- cx Medanta the Medicity Hospital, Delhi, India
- cylndraprastha Apollo Hospital, Delhi, India
- cz Amritha Institute of Medical Science and Research Centre, Cherthala, India
- da Necker University Hospital, Paris, France
- db Istanbul Univesity, Istanbul, Turkey
- dc University Hospital Ghent, Ghent, Belgium
- dd Children's Memorial Health Institute, Warszawa, Poland
- de Hospital Infantil la Paz, Madrid, Spain
- df Mattel Children's Hospital Ucla, Los Angeles, United States
- dg Ucsf, San Francisco, United States
- dh Schneider Children Medical Center, Petach Tikva, Israel
- di Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Niasong, Taiwan
- dj Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, United States
- dk Avicenna Transplant Hospital, Shiraz, Iran
- dl Birmingham Children's Hospital Nhs Foundation Trust, Birmingham, United Kingdom
- dm Edouard Herriot Hospital Group, Lyon, France
- dn Liver Transplant Unit, Intermountain Primary Children's Hospital, The Center for Global Surgery, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, United States

Abstract

Background. Over 16 000 children under the age of 15 died worldwide in 2017 because of liver disease. Pediatric liver transplantation (PLT) is currently the standard of care for these patients. The aim of this study is to describe global PLT activity and identify variations between regions. **Methods.** A survey was conducted from May 2018 to August 2019 to determine the current state of PLT. Transplant centers were categorized into quintile categories according to the year they performed their first PLT. Countries were classified according to gross national income per capita. **Results.** One hundred eight programs from 38 countries were included (68% response rate). 10 619 PLTs were performed within the last 5 y. High-income countries performed 4992 (46.4%) PLT, followed by upper-middle- (4704 [44.3%]) and lower-middle (993 [9.4%])-income countries. The most frequently used type of grafts worldwide are living donor grafts. A higher proportion of lower-middle-income countries (68.7%) performed ≥ 25 living donor liver transplants over the last 5 y compared to high-income countries (36%; $P = 0.019$). A greater proportion of programs from high-income countries have performed ≥ 25 whole liver transplants (52.4% versus 6.2%; $P = 0.001$) and ≥ 25 split/reduced liver transplants (53.2% versus 6.2%; $P < 0.001$) compared to lower-middle-income countries. **Conclusions.** This study represents, to our knowledge, the most geographically comprehensive report on PLT activity and a first step toward global collaboration and data sharing for the greater good of children with liver disease; it is imperative that these centers share the lead in PLT. © 2023 Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. All rights reserved.

Index Keywords

adolescent, Article, child, comparative study, exploratory research, gross national income, health care quality, high income country, human, infant, liver disease, liver graft, liver transplantation, living donor, middle income country, pediatrics, questionnaire, training, death, liver disease, population research; Censuses, Child, Death, Humans, Liver Diseases, Liver Transplantation, Living Donors

Correspondence Address

Rodriguez-Davalos M.I.; Intermountain Primary Children's Hospital, United States; email: manuel.rodriguez-davalos@imail.org

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