

# Introduction to Pancreas Transplantation

NYP/Weill Cornell Transplant Program



**Weill Cornell Medicine**

In cooperation with The Rogosin Institute

**New York-Presbyterian**

# Who Is Eligible for a Pancreas Transplant?

Patients with type 1 diabetes may be eligible for a pancreas transplant if they meet the following criteria:

- Kidney failure requiring dialysis and transplant
- Prior kidney transplant that is functioning well
- Difficulty managing blood sugar levels despite best efforts
- Hypoglycemic unawareness (no longer have typical symptoms of low blood sugar)



# What Are the Different Types of Pancreas Transplantation?

## Simultaneous Pancreas Kidney Transplant

- One deceased donor provides both organs

## Pancreas after Kidney Transplantation

- For patients who already have a kidney transplant
- Qualify for a pancreas transplant due to inability to control their diabetes
  - Often experience hypoglycemic unawareness

## Solitary Pancreas Transplantation

- For patients without kidney disease but who have life-threatening complications of diabetes, such as hypoglycemic unawareness



# What are the Risks Associated with Pancreas Transplantation?

## Transplant Surgery & Recovery:

- Risk of surgery is similar to other operations that require you to undergo general anesthesia
- You may experience one or more of the following associated with your surgery:
  - pain, bleeding, clotting, reaction to anesthesia, and infection
- There is a chance that the pancreas will not work right away
  - You may require insulin for a brief period of time
- Rarely, the pancreas may never work and you will continue to require insulin injections.



# What are the Risks Associated with Pancreas Transplantation?

## After Transplant:

- Anxiousness and depression may occur
- Medications given to prevent rejection cause both short- and long-term side effects
- Financial issues may develop after transplantation
  - Insurance coverage or job status changes may affect your medical care
  - May face extra expenses related to child care needs, transportation, and housing and may have lost wages
- Transplanted organs do not last forever





# What are the Benefits of Having a Pancreas Transplant?

Transplantation offers patients the opportunity to lead a more normal life with improved quality, due to:

- Freedom from insulin injections and dialysis
- Normalization of blood sugar and hemoglobin A1c levels
- Prevent development and/or worsening of the complications of diabetes that occur in the eyes, nerves, heart, kidney, and blood vessels
- Restore classic symptoms of low blood sugar
- Protect the transplanted kidney from complications of diabetes
- Improved patient survival for those patients needing a kidney transplant



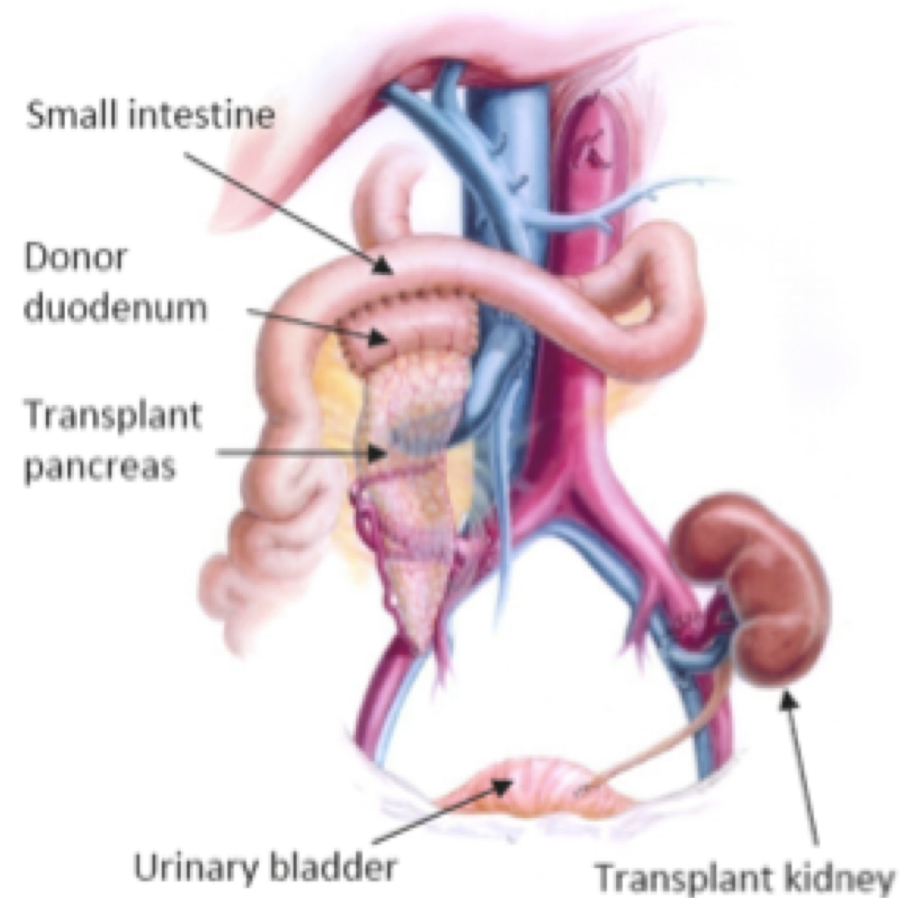
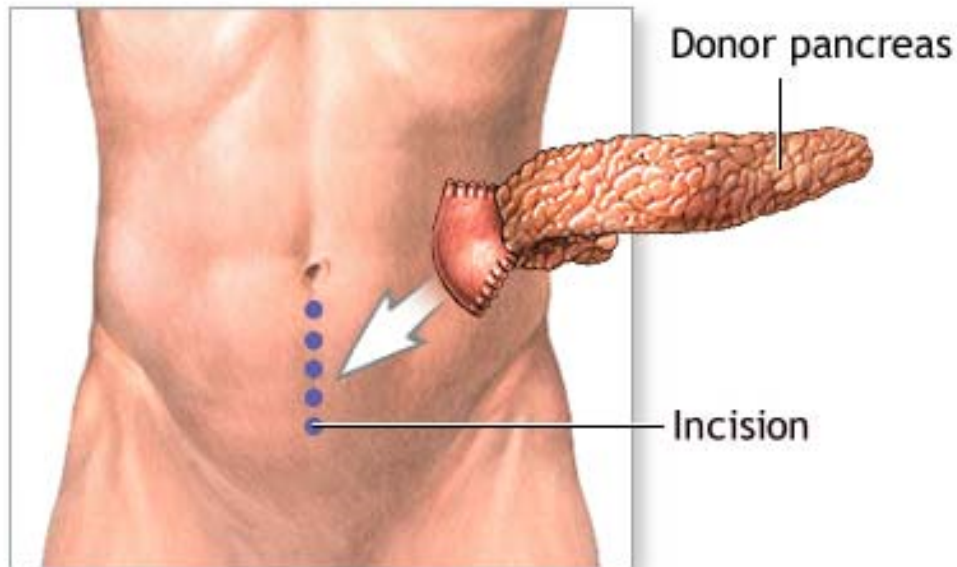
# What Options Are Available Other than Pancreas Transplantation?

## Alternative

- Remain on insulin
  - Injections
  - Insulin pump
- Continuous glucose monitoring system
  - Additional monitoring for patients with hypoglycemic unawareness



# The Pancreas Transplant Surgery: What Should I Expect?





# About Your Hospital Stay

## Length of stay

- 6 to 8 days (first few days are spent in surgical ICU)

## IV lines for medications and fluids

## Foley catheter to drain urine

## Nasogastric tube

## Recovery period

- Diet is advanced
- Get out of bed to walk
- Participate in numerous educational sessions



# Conclusion

Thank you for participating in our transplant education session!

Please direct any questions to the transplant team members you are meeting with and remember that your assigned **Transplant Coordinator** is your **primary contact** throughout the transplant process!

Re-watch this video any time at  
[www.cornellsurgery.org/transplant](http://www.cornellsurgery.org/transplant)

