Excellence in cardiac transplantation has been an integral part of UAB Medicine for almost four decades. Since its inception in 1980, UAB’s heart program has performed over 1000 transplants (including heart, heart-lung, and heart-kidney). Driving this success is ongoing collaboration between an expert surgical team and cardiologists whose patient management skills are second to none. Our standard of interactive care begins with streamlined referral and pre-transplant management and proceeds through a process that delivers outstanding results at one year, three years, and beyond. These results, and the world-class care they represent, continue to attract patients with advanced heart disease to our center.

Our state-of-the-art, 23-bed Heart Transplant Intensive Care Unit (HTICU) is staffed with a skilled critical care team dedicated to caring for heart transplant patients in the crucial first hours after surgery. The unit received the Beacon Award for excellence in critical care nursing.

Physicians and surgeons at UAB (one of the first centers in the nation to implant the Berlin Heart) have been at the forefront in promoting advances in mechanical circulatory support devices (MCSD), helping define their rapidly evolving roles as either a bridge to transplant or destination therapy.

INDICATIONS FOR TREATMENT

The most common conditions leading to advanced heart failure and the need for a heart transplant include cardiomyopathy, severe coronary artery disease (CAD), recalcitrant ventricular arrhythmias, and congenital heart defects.

One way to assess transplant outcomes is to measure risk of mortality compared to other centers. UAB heart recipients are 31% more likely to survive at least three years than national norms.
In 2017, the University of Alabama at Birmingham marks its 49th year as the South’s premier transplant center. More than 14,000 UAB patients have received the gift of life that transplantation represents since Arnold Diethelm, MD, performed the first kidney transplant here in 1968.

The UAB CTI’s mission is to build upon our distinguished heritage by continuing to serve patients across the region with advanced therapeutics that promote successful transplantation. This important alignment of resources also helps support our efforts to develop new treatments and train future leaders in the field.

Thanks to scientific advancement and the unrivaled generosity of organ donors, the future is brighter than ever for patients who need a new lease on life. The UAB CTI is proud to be an integral part of this process.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about UAB Heart Transplant, including our faculty listing, visit us on the web at uabmedicine.org/hearttransplant.

For web-based learning and video presentations from our UAB Medicine specialists, visit our MD Learning Channel at uabmedicine.org/learnMDtransplant.

FOR REFERRING PHYSICIANS

Consultations & Patient Referrals
To contact the UAB Heart Transplant Office, call 205-975-8615 or fax 205-975-9792.

For urgent referrals, or inpatient transfers, please call UAB MIST at 1-800-UAB-MIST (1-800-822-6478) to be connected with the UAB transplant team. UAB MIST (Medical Information Service via Telephone) is a toll-free, 24-hour service that connects physicians anywhere in the country with UAB Medicine specialists.

Ambassador Program
UAB Ambassador allows referring physicians to access their patients’ UAB Medicine records – including inpatient and outpatient documents, activities, and lab results – through a secure online portal. For more information, please call 1-800-UAB-MIST (1-800-822-6478) and ask to be connected with UAB Physician Services, or e-mail physicianservices@uabmc.edu.