

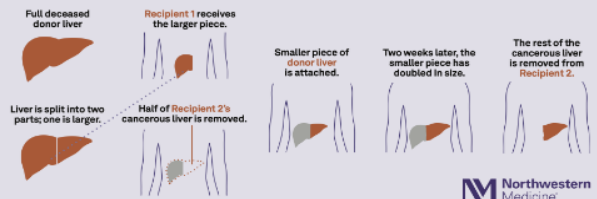
# Breakthroughs in Clinical Care and Cutting-Edge Research

## FIRST IN THE WORLD: MAKING LIVER TRANSPLANTS ACCESSIBLE FOR PATIENTS WITH STAGE 4 COLORECTAL CANCER

For the first time at Northwestern Medicine, surgeons have successfully split a deceased donor liver into two parts, transplanting one portion into the intended recipient and the other, smaller segment, into a patient with terminal colorectal cancer who could not find a suitable living donor. The treatment option is now available for select patients with advanced colorectal cancer with liver metastasis in a new clinical program at Northwestern Medicine called [Colorectal Metastasis to Liver Extraction with Auxiliary Transplant and Delayed Resection \(CLEAR\)](#).

### Journey of 1 Deceased-Donor Liver to 2 Patients (RAPID Transplant)

Recipient 1 is the initially designated recipient. Recipient 2 has a cancerous liver.



## HIGHEST VOLUME TRANSPLANT CENTER IN THE US:

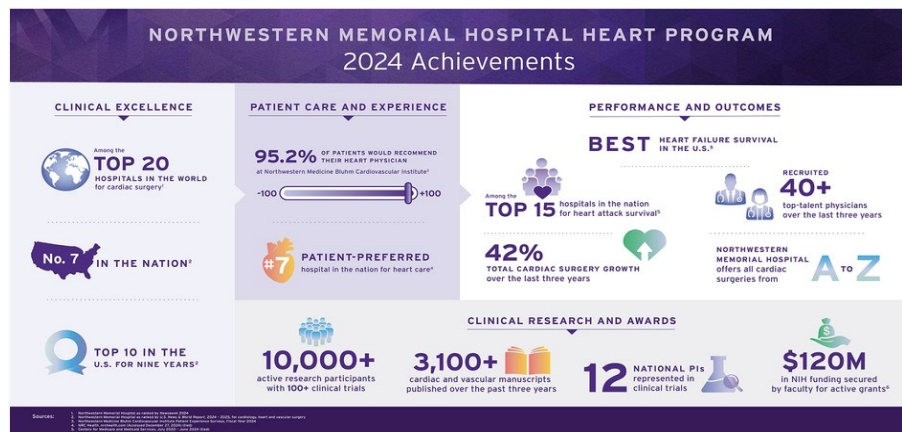
### Expanding the lung transplant donor pool by putting lungs in the ‘fridge’



To expand the donor pool for lung transplant recipients and give surgeons more time to remove diseased lungs during transplantation, organ procurement specialists with [Northwestern Medicine Canning Thoracic Institute](#) are now routinely repairing damaged donor lungs using “lungs in a box” technology and storing them for transplantation by putting “[lungs in a fridge](#).” These innovative approaches are yielding dramatic benefits for patients and staff alike. In 2024, the institute’s lung transplant program performed 148 lung transplants, the most in a single year since their start 10 years ago. Fueled by innovative technology like “lungs in a fridge” and “lungs in a box,” the institute became the highest volume lung transplant center in the U.S. this year and achieved the shortest wait time for a lung transplant, with a **median wait time of four days**.

## BLUHM CARDIOVASCULAR INSTITUTE: CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF BREAKTHROUGH MEDICINE

Since its founding in 2005, [Northwestern Medicine Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute](#) has grown to be an international leader in breakthrough clinical research, advanced technology and exceptional patient care. As one of the top 10 cardiology, heart and vascular surgery programs in the U.S. and among the top 20 cardiac surgery programs in the world, we’re proud that our rankings reflect the exceptional outcomes achieved by our multidisciplinary team.



# Breakthroughs in Clinical Care and Cutting-Edge Research

## PHYSICIANS UTILIZE COLLABORATION AND ADVANCED TECHNIQUES TO MANAGE A DISRUPTED BILE DUCT IN ADVANCED STAGE CANCER



[Aziz Adam, MD](#), interventional endoscopist and Medical Director for International Health, [Daniel Borja-Cacho, MD](#), transplantation surgeon, and [Ahsun Riaz, MD](#), vascular and interventional radiologist, discuss a complex biliary case involving a patient with advanced stage cancer. They explore the innovative, multidisciplinary approach taken to manage the patient's biliary fistula and hepatic duct obstruction. The physicians highlight the collaborative efforts and advanced techniques that led to a successful outcome and improved quality of life for the patient.

## INTERNATIONAL HEALTH SPOTLIGHT: INTRODUCING MASHAL MALIK, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Mashal Malik joined International Health in September 2024 as a Program Director. She brings her expertise in healthcare management from past roles at Northwestern Medicine and other healthcare organizations. Most recently, she was a Senior Practice Manager in neurology where she strengthened the team and built robust interdepartmental relationships. Mashal focuses on supporting our patient services team and day-to-day operations to ensure that our patients and our partners have an exceptional experience at Northwestern Medicine. She can be reached at [mashal.malik@nm.org](mailto:mashal.malik@nm.org).



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