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LUNG TRANSPLANTATION

What do you need to know?



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What is Lung Transplantation?

Lung transplantation is a surgical procedure in which patients with severe lung diseases undergo replacement of one or both lungs. The new lungs are obtained from one or both lungs. Although lung transplantation carries the risk of serious complications, it prolongs life and significantly improves quality of life for patients with end-stage respiratory diseases.

When do doctors recommend Lung Transplantation?

Lung transplantation is recommended for patients with advanced lung diseases when all other therapeutic options have been exhausted and no clinical improvement is observed.

Which lung diseases recommend Lung Transplantation?

- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (Emphysema)
- Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Idiopathic Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension
- Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (Emphysema)
- Eosinophilic Granuloma
- Lymphangiomyomatosis
- Extrinsic Allergic Alveolitis
- Sarcoidosis
- Diffuse Bronchiectasis



Specific Criteria for Lungs Transplantation

- End-stage lung disease
- Exhaustion of all other therapeutic options
- Age under 65 years
- Absence of other chronic illnesses
- Absence of severe infection
- No recent malignancy
- No Hepatitis or AIDS
- No use of alcohol, substances, or tobacco
- Normal body weight
- Absence of psychiatric illness
- Adequate social support (e.g. family support)
- Financial ability to cover expenses
- Capacity for continuous medical follow-up after transplantation

Where is Lungs Transplantation performed?

Lung transplantation is not performed in Cyprus. Eligible patients are referred to a recognized Transplant Center abroad following evaluation at the Pulmonology Clinic of Nicosia General Hospital. For eligible patients, the cost of the transplant is covered by the republic of Cyprus.

What happens after Lungs Transplantation?

Lung transplantation requires the patient to remain abroad for approximately three months – initially in hospital, followed by accommodation in a nearby guesthouse with frequent medical monitoring. Upon returning to Cyprus, the patient is followed up at the Pulmonology Clinic of Nicosia General Hospital through the “Lung Transplantation Outpatient Unit” at regular intervals. Additionally, the patient visits the Transplant Center every three months during the first year and annually thereafter. Monitoring includes blood tests, spirometry, and two to three bronchoscopies and chest X-rays.

Medication must be taken for life. Its purpose is to protect the transplanted lung from rejection (by suppressing the immune system) and to prevent infections that may arise due to reduced immunity. In essence, the patient remains under medical care but enjoys a significantly improved quality of life, free from the debilitating sensation of breathlessness.



Risks Associated with Lungs Transplantation

As with all surgical procedures, lung transplantation carries risks such as bleeding, infection, and the possibility that the new lung may not function properly in the recipient. Long-term risks include chronic rejection, development of malignancies (due to immunosuppressive therapy), gastrointestinal disorders such as stomach ulcers, and other complications.

Success Rates of Lungs Transplantation

Survival rates during the first year after transplantation are high (exceeding 83%). These rates decline over time, particularly within the first decade, and are directly influenced by any complications that may arise.

