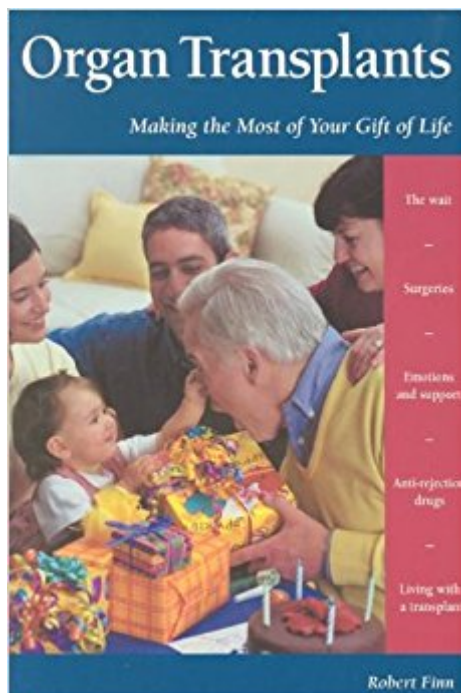


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# Organ Transplants: Making The Most Of Your Gift Of Life (Patient Centered Guides)



## Synopsis

Over 64,000 people in the US are living in limbo, awaiting an organ transplant. The good news about organ transplants is that they are becoming fairly routine surgical procedures. The even better news is that they do work miracles. People who have been in ill health for years often describe a feeling of being reborn after a transplant. However, those families who have been told that a loved one needs a transplant to live are thrust into a strange land. Patients and families worry that no organ will be available to them. They may fear the surgery or what living with someone else's organ will feel like. They may have only a foggy idea of what staying with an immunosuppressive therapy regime after the operation will entail. *Organ Transplants: Making the Most of Your Gift of Life* describes: Deciding whether to have a transplant and choosing a transplant team The importance of the screening interview What factors go into determining a match, and what to do while waiting Detailed information on heart and lung, liver, kidney and pancreas, and other transplants Anti-rejection drugs and living with a transplant Emotional responses and support Specific situations such as living donors, transplants in children, meeting the donor family, etc. Robert Finn, medical and scientific journalist and author, has interviewed dozens of patients, family members, medical caregivers, and transplant activists to present your family with the latest facts about transplantation--as well as the stories behind those facts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

More than 60,000 Americans each year face the prospect of needing a new heart, kidney, liver,

lung, or pancreas. Most wait for months, even years, to receive a donated organ. For those with illnesses for which transplantation may be the last hope, journalist Finn has written a comprehensive guide to a complex, sometimes frightening world. He explains how selection decisions are made and how organ procurement systems work; dispels commonly held myths about donation; provides a description of the immune system and the drugs used to control rejection; illustrates through individual cases what the actual process of waiting for and finally receiving an organ is like; discusses the different surgical procedures required for each type of organ transplant; examines the postsurgical physical and emotional roller coaster typically experienced by patients and their supporters; and offers practical suggestions for handling the financial costs not only of the transplant surgery itself but lifelong medical expenditures. Liberally sprinkled with comments from actual recipients, their families, and members of the transplant teams, this book is an excellent resource. Appendixes include Internet discussion groups, mailing lists and other web sites, pharmaceutical and financial assistance programs, and contact information for scores of transplant-related organizations. Highly recommended.-Anne C. Tomlin, Auburn Memorial Hosp. Lib., NY Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Robert Finn graduated from the University of Chicago with an A.B. in biological sciences and intended to pursue a career as a research neuroscientist. After several years in graduate school, in the Department of Psychobiology at the University of California, Irvine, he realized that he preferred writing about science to actually doing it. Robert left with an M.S. degree to pursue a career as a science writer. For a number of years, he worked full-time at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena, doing science writing for Caltech's research magazine and then for the news media, explaining scientific advances. Since 1992, Robert has been a full-time freelance writer. He has written hundreds of articles for dozens of publications, including Discover, Men's Fitness, the Los Angeles Times, and The Scientist, where he is a contributing editor. Although he has written about practically all areas of science, he specializes in biomedicine and in science policy. He estimates that he has interviewed close to 1,000 scientists, physicians, and other experts during his career. Robert has been fascinated with the drug development process and clinical trials since college. Several years ago he worked for a contract research organization, writing chapters for highly technical books intended for scientists interested in clinical trials. Cancer Clinical Trials is Robert's first book. He is now working on a book on organ transplants.

As a clinical social worker that works with patients facing the possibility of organ transplantation, I

picked up this book with the hope that it would be something I could recommend to patients. It did not disappoint me! Very well written and comprehensive, it gives a huge amount of information in an easy to understand format. It is also a very interesting read - I had a hard time putting it down! It is a great starting point for people that are just beginning to learn about transplant. I will be strongly recommending it to all patients and families that I meet as part of the pre-transplant evaluation process.

This book was recommended by one of the staff at the Cleveland Clinic. It is informative, easy to read, and reduces anxiety about what to expect.

My tissue matched up as a kidney donor for a friend who is on dialysis. I needed a reference that would answer my questions as I look down the road to my surgery as a donor. This book, while geared to recipients, addressed my concerns. There are several general chapters that most readers will want to read. Then, the book continues with chapters relating to specific concerns such as heart transplants, kidney transplants, each of the other organ transplants, relationships with the surviving family members of a donor, financial considerations, rejection of the organ, etc. The book clearly explains the system for getting on the "list" and the wait until a donor is found. It also describes the day of surgery as the recipient "gets the call" that an organ has been found. The surgery for each of the different types of organ transplants is lucidly explained. My main interest is living donors and there is a fine chapter on that topic. I found myself reading the book, nearly from cover to cover because I enjoyed educating myself on all aspects of transplants. The only chapter I skipped was one that is very specific on the medical regimen for combating rejection. However, for a potential recipient, this chapter would be of crucial interest (although of little interest to me as a donor). The information is very well organized and anyone with questions about transplants will find this book to be an indispensable reference.

I am a recent addition to the UNOS heart transplant waiting list and I have found locating information regarding organ transplantation rare. I was shown this book at my cardiac rehab facility and I am now online to order a copy for my family and I. I found this book to cover all major subjects relating to organ transplants. It is broke down in sections for easy reference. I was most impressed with the details of the surgeries for the different types of transplants and the insert of dialog from transplant recipients and medical personnel. I truly am very grateful to have read this book and I know that I will read it time and time again. This is also an opportunity for my family and friends to

understand what is going to happen to me and how they can best deal with it. Thank you to Robert Finn for a job well done.

This book was the only one of its kind for a long time. In fact, I found it years after my father's liver transplant, and found it helpful even "after the fact." With new information coming out daily, and treatments progressing so rapidly, I continue to keep an eye out for more books on the subject of organ donation and transplantation. I'm interested in the most up-to-date information AND interviews with all types of recipients. I want to know how other people (besides the recipient) feel during and after the process. Mr. Finn's book is outstanding, and reports from a PATIENT'S point of view. An excellent accompaniment that I suggest for FAMILY members of a transplant recipient is "ORGAN TRANSPLANTS: A Survival Guide for the Entire Family".-- Tina P. Schwartz, YA Author

This book is an excellent source of information for anyone who is waiting for, already has, or is considering a transplant. It tells everything you want and need to know about this frightening surgery. My heart transplant took place before (1991) this book was written. I only wish I could have read it in 1990. Mr. NewHeart - Heart Attack to Transplant and Beyond Mr. NewHeart (New Heart): Heart Attack to Transplant and Beyond

There is such a scarce amount of information for families of transplant recipients. In fact, this is the only book on the subject at my local library. I found it extremely helpful and informative for many of the technical questions I had about what my father went through and would continue to endure. (He had a liver transplant 7 years ago.) I wish I had found it years ago! Thank you Robert Finn!

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