



From Waiting List to New Life: What Organ Donation Really Means

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What do you know?

- ❖ Do you know anyone who has had a transplant or someone who has donated their organs?
- ❖ Are you registered to be an organ donor?





Save up to **8 LIVES** through organ donation



Improve up to **75 LIVES** through tissue donation



What organs can be donated?



- ❖ Heart
- ❖ Lungs
- ❖ Kidneys
- ❖ Liver
- ❖ Intestines
- ❖ Pancreas

Understanding the Donation Process



Life event such as a stroke, heart attack, accident, head injury.



Transported to the hospital



ED staff evaluates and transfer to ICU



Brain death is a legal definition of death with no chance of recovery. The donor must pass away in a healthcare setting on a ventilator.



The nature of the injury leads a hospital physician to decide if the patient is deteriorating to brain death.

Understanding the Donation Process



Registration Status Is Private. It Is **Not** On Your Medical Records. Your Medical Team Is Unaware Of Your Donor Status. They Will Fight To Save Your Life!





What factors ARE considered for matching?



What factors ARE considered for matching?



- ❖ Blood type
- ❖ Body size
- ❖ Tissue type
- ❖ Time on list
- ❖ How sick
- ❖ Donor distance





What factors ARE NOT considered
for matching?



What factors ARE NOT considered for matching?



- ❖ Age
- ❖ Race
- ❖ Gender
- ❖ Income
- ❖ Religion
- ❖ Social status

Common Misconceptions



❖ Misconception: Doctors won't work as hard to save me.

○ Fact: The team treating you is entirely separate from the transplant team. Your life is always the top priority.

❖ Misconception: Only young, healthy people can donate.

○ Fact: There is no absolute age cutoff, and even those with chronic conditions can often donate, as suitability is determined at the time of death.

❖ Misconception: My family will be charged for donation.

○ Fact: The donor's family never pays for the cost of organ or tissue removal.



Common Misconceptions



- ❖ Misconception: I can't have an open-casket funeral.
 - Fact: Organ procurement organizations treat donors with respect, and donation does not interfere with funeral arrangements.
- ❖ Misconception: Rich/famous people get priority.
 - Fact: The organ waiting list is based on medical urgency, blood type, and time spent waiting, not income or celebrity status.



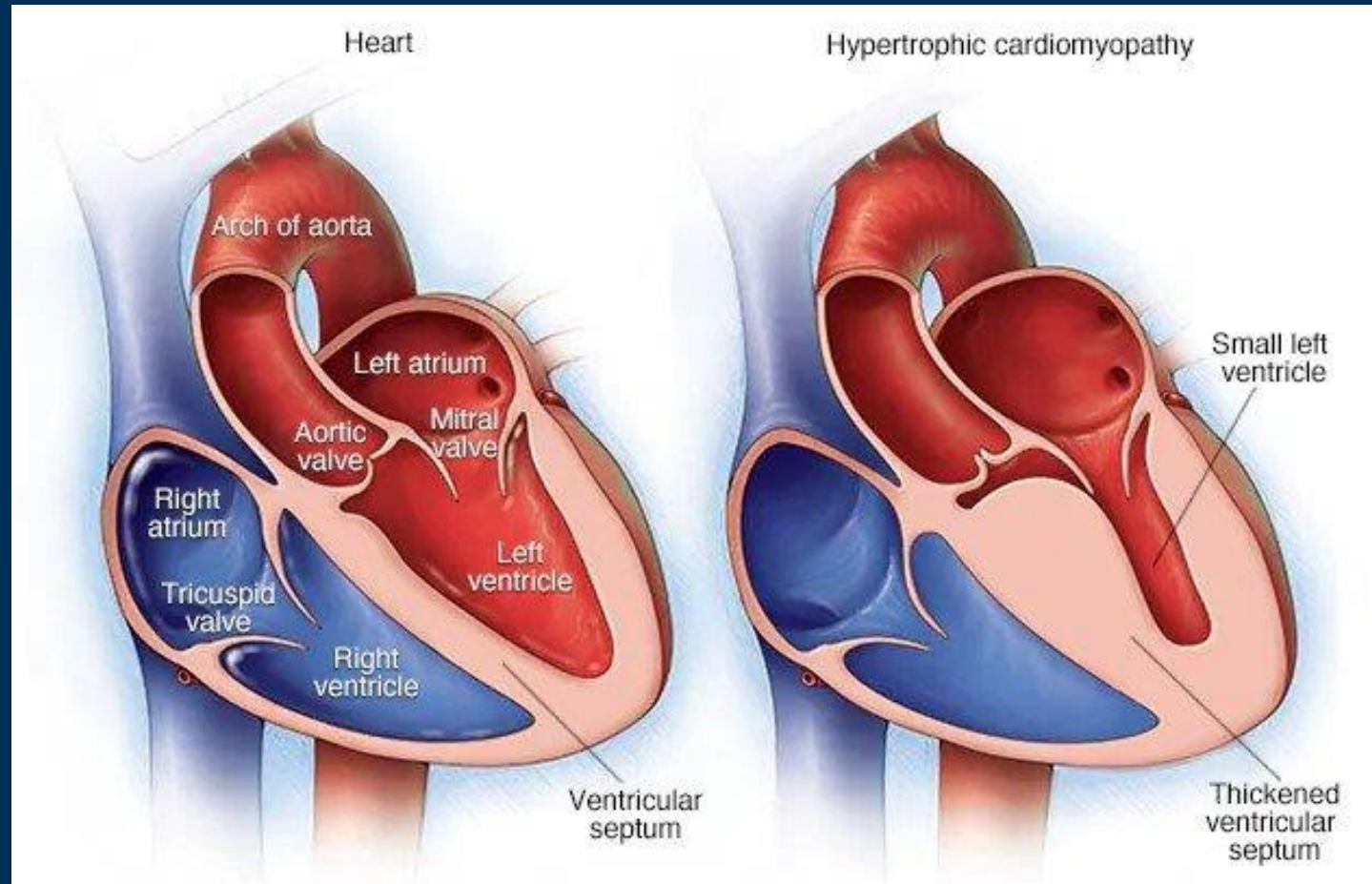
Patient Introduction

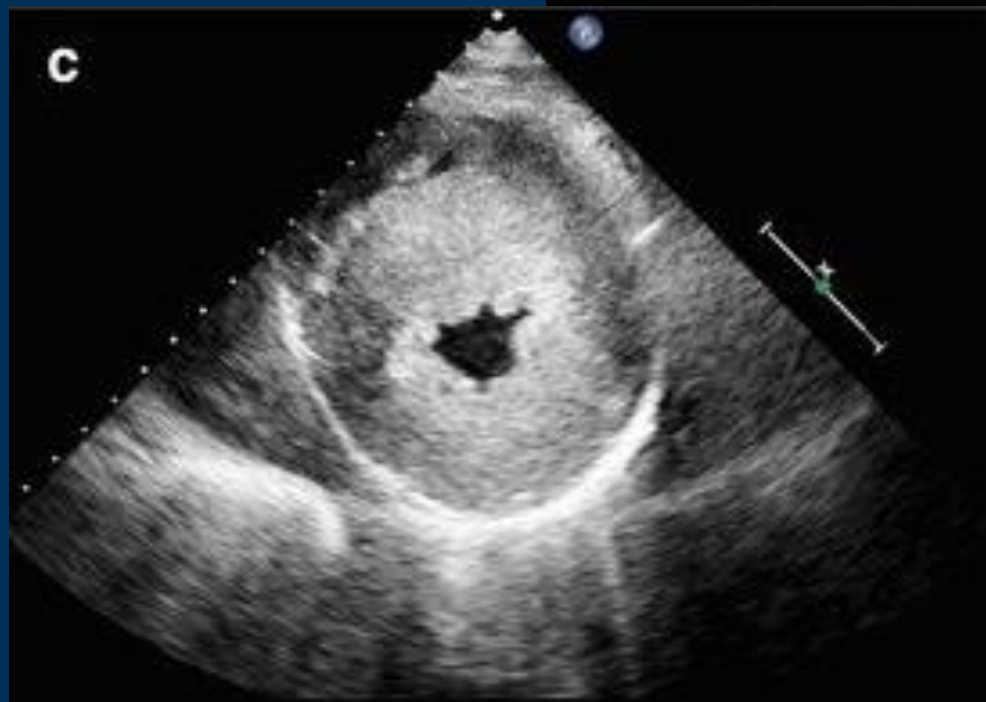
- ❖ Now a 30 year old female, status post 2 heart transplants and a kidney
- ❖ First heart transplant was done in 2000 in Texas
- ❖ Second transplant and kidney were done back-to-back in 2022 in Nashville



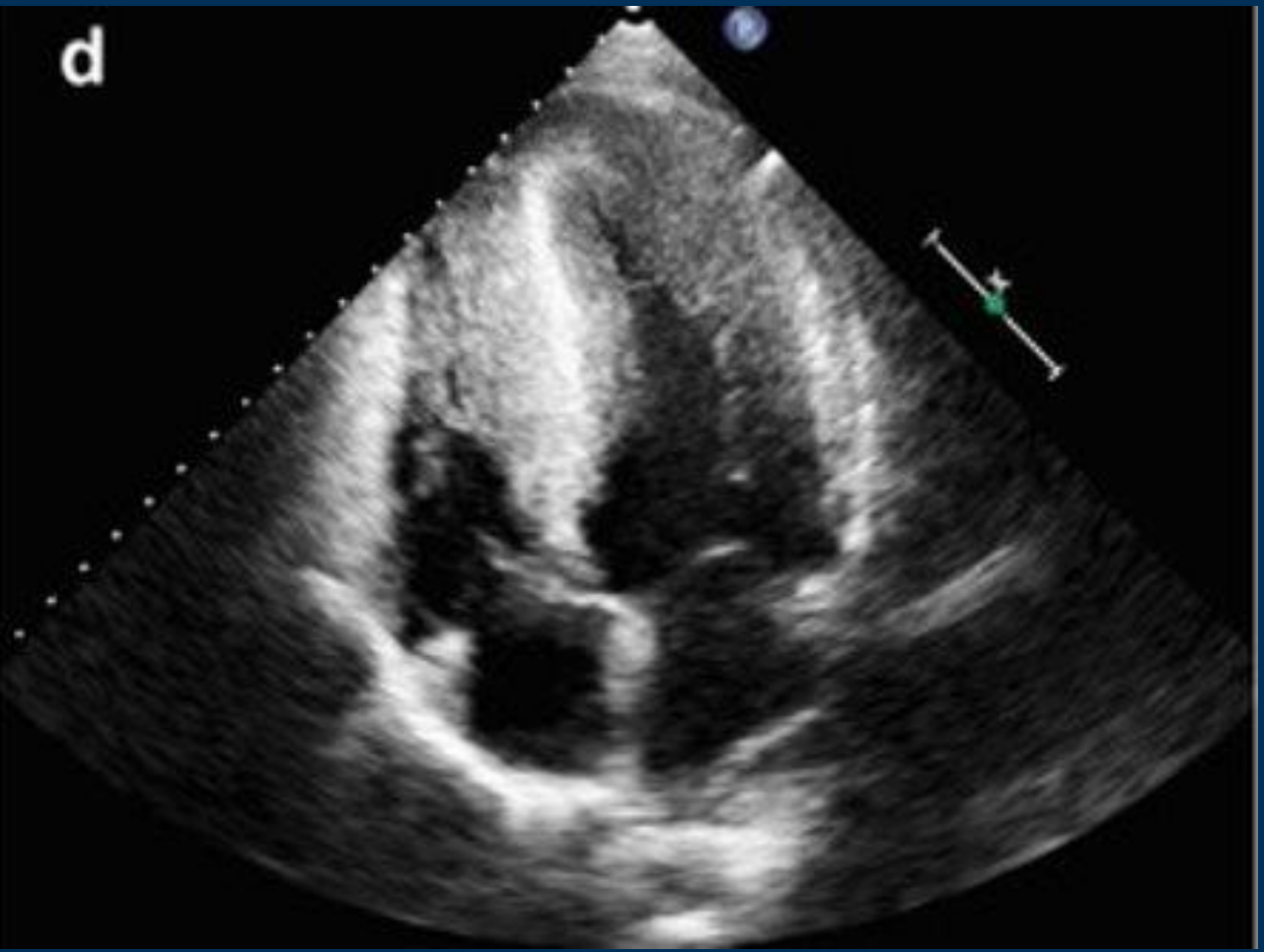
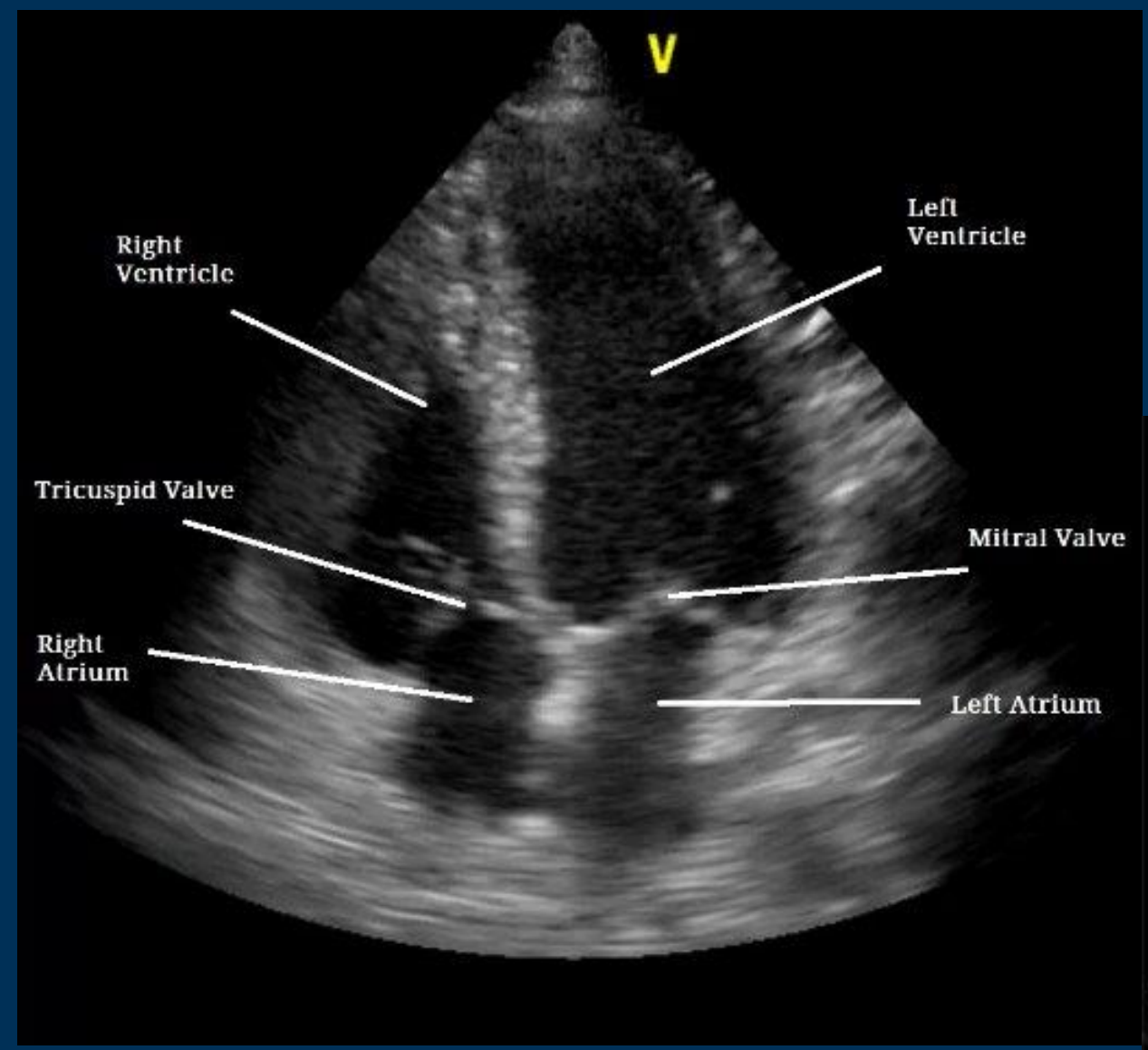
Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

- ❖ Excessive thickening of the left ventricular myocardium



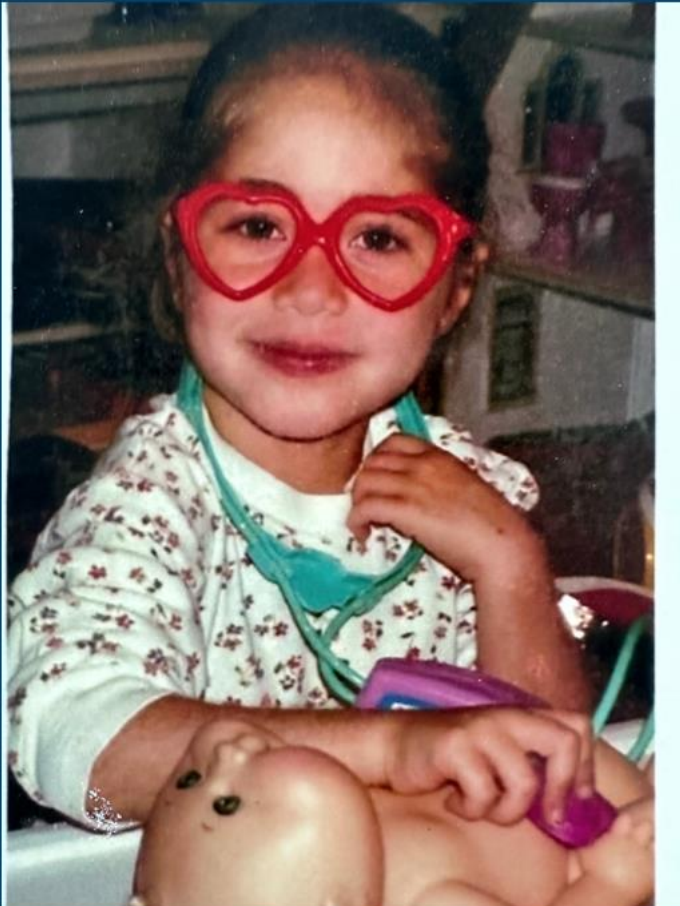


DONATE
LIFE
Tennessee



Why am I an organ donation advocate?

1992, 1 year old



2021, 29 years old



Recipient Family

- ❖ My parents had a difficult time because while they were hoping for me to get a new heart, that meant someone else's child would die
- ❖ "You'll do anything to save your child," said Daryl. "But you can't help thinking about that other child... that other family that lost their child and the fact that another child had to die for yours to live."



Life After Transplant

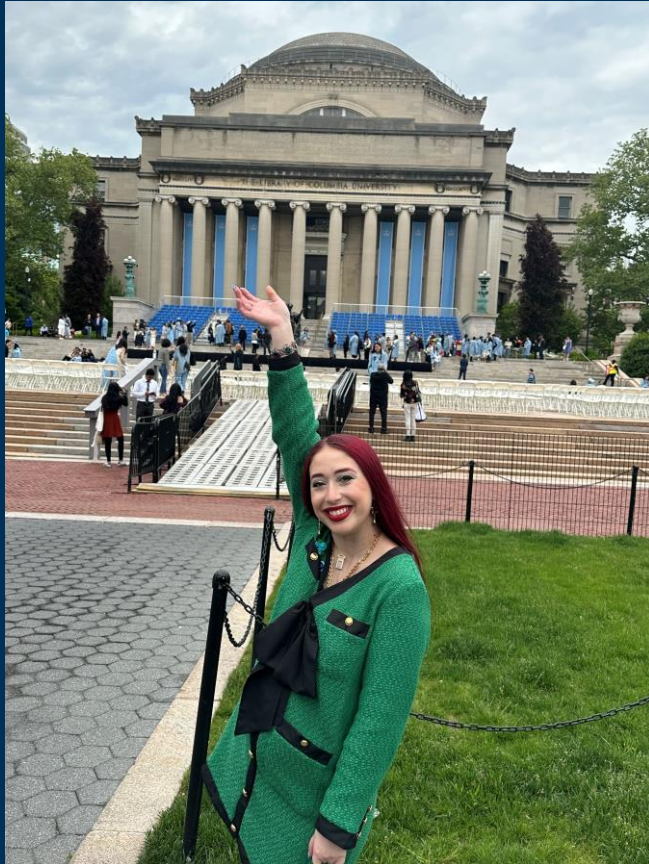
- ❖ Transplant is a treatment not a cure!
- ❖ It comes with restrictions
 - No contact sports
 - Food restrictions
 - Medicines with bad side effects (type one diabetes)
 - Restrictions on what medicines I can take when sick
 - Lowered immune system from immunosuppressant medicines



Organ Donation is

The Gift of Life

2024 – after second heart transplant in 2021
As a Columbia University graduate of
Narrative Medicine



Life After Transplant

- ❖ Heart biopsies are important for transplant patients because it is how they determine if there is rejection
- ❖ There are different types of rejection:
 - Cellular – is graded from 0-3R
 - Antibody mediated (AMR)



I'm done

VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY MEDICAL
CENTER
Nashville, TN



Life After Transplant





BRIDGESTONE ARENA

HOLDS 20,000 PEOPLE



More than **100,000** people are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants.

Every 8 minutes
another person is added to the
national transplant waiting list



How can I register?



- ❖ BeTheGiftToday.com
- ❖ DonateLifeTN.org





- **Quick** - takes as little as 60 seconds.
- **Customizable** - choose what to donate.
- **Private** - No ❤️ on your driver's license.