

# Landscape of Living Multiorgan Donation in the United States: A Registry-Based Cohort Study

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**Background.** The donation of multiple allografts from a single living donor is a rare practice, and the patient characteristics and outcomes associated with these procedures are not well described. **Methods.** Using the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients, we identified 101 living multiorgan donors and their 133 recipients. **Results.** The 49 sequential (donations during separate procedures) multiorgan donors provided grafts to 81 recipients: 21 kidney-then-liver, 15 liver-then-kidney, 5 lung-then-kidney, 3 liver-then-intestine, 3 kidney-then-pancreas, 1 lung-then-liver, and 1 pancreas-then-kidney. Of these donors, 38% donated 2 grafts to the same recipient and 15% donated 2 grafts as non-directed donors. Compared to recipients from first-time, single organ living donors, recipients from second-time living donors had similar graft and patient survival. The 52 simultaneous (multiple donations during one procedure) multiorgan donors provided 2 grafts to 1 recipient each: 48 kidney-pancreas and 4 liver-intestine. Donors had median of 13.4 years (interquartile range, 8.3-18.5 years) of follow-up. There was one reported death of a sequential donor (2.5 years after second donation). Few postdonation complications were reported over a median of 116 days (interquartile range, 0-295 days) of follow-up; however, routine living donor follow-up data were sparse. Recipients of kidneys from second-time living donors had similar graft ( $P = 0.2$ ) and patient survival ( $P = 0.4$ ) when compared with recipients from first-time living donors. Similarly, recipients of livers from second-time living donors had similar graft survival ( $P = 0.9$ ) and patient survival ( $P = 0.7$ ) when compared with recipients from first-time living donors. **Conclusions.** Careful documentation of outcomes is needed to ensure ethical practices in selection, informed consent, and postdonation care of this unique donor community.

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Living donors provide nearly 18% of the organs used for transplantation in the United States each year.<sup>1</sup> Kidney and liver donations are the most common and well-studied forms of living organ donation, but living donors in the United States can donate a lung lobe, partial intestine, and even a segment of pancreas with varying degrees of success.<sup>2,3</sup>

Given the scarcity of organs and the growing transplant waitlist, transplanting multiple grafts from a single living donor might be a potentially useful strategy for a subset of transplant candidates such as pediatric or lower-risk left liver lobe recipients.<sup>4</sup> This rare practice is a topic of both clinical and ethical interest; however, there are very few published studies to inform these discussions (Table S1, SDC, <http://links.lww.com/TP/B524>).

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Case series and case reports have documented living multiorgan donation involving a variety of organ pairs, including documentation of simultaneous and sequential liver-kidney, pancreas-kidney, liver-small bowel, and lung-liver living donor transplants from single donors.<sup>4-13</sup> Most case series focus on the recipient, with minimal documentation of donor outcomes. In general, recipients of living donor organs experience advantages, including decreased waiting time, decreased cold ischemia time, increased opportunities for immunological matching, and increased graft survival. However, the paucity of data on the outcomes of living multiorgan donors prevents weighing of risks and benefits for the donor candidate, which is important to comprehensive informed consent.<sup>14</sup>

The goal of this study was to characterize the landscape of living multiorgan transplantation in the United States. Using national registry data, we characterized living multiorgan donors and their recipients and examined outcomes associated with the practice of living multiorgan donation. This study may inform future discussions regarding donor selection, informed consent, and patient education practices.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Data Source

This study used data from the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) external release made available in June 2017. The SRTR data system includes data on all donors, waitlisted candidates, and transplant recipients in the US, submitted by members of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN), and has been described elsewhere.<sup>15</sup> The Health Resources and Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services, provides oversight to the activities of the OPTN and SRTR contractors.

### Study Population

The study population consisted of 101 living multiorgan donors and their 133 recipients. Sequential living multiorgan donors were defined as individuals who donated grafts on separate dates (ie, separate procedures). Simultaneous living multiorgan donors were defined as individuals who donated 2 grafts on the same day, presumably during the same procedure. We studied 49 sequential living multiorgan donors with 81 unique recipients and 52 simultaneous living multiorgan donors with 52 unique recipients between March 1994 and January 2017. We compared recipients of the second graft from sequential living multiorgan recipients with recipients of a graft from first-time living donors. For these analyses, we included 140 501 recipients of first-time single-organ living donor kidneys, 6056 recipients of first-time living donor livers, 22 recipients of first-time living donor pancreas, and 38 recipients of first-time living donor intestine transplants recorded in the SRTR registry in the same period.

### Statistical Analysis

Groups of living multiorgan donors were compared with the Mann-Whitney rank-sum test (continuous variables) or  $\chi^2$  test (categorical variables). All-cause graft loss and mortality for recipients of living donor organs were estimated using the Kaplan-Meier method. Differences in patient and graft survival were assessed using the log-rank test of equality. We used a 2-sided alpha of 0.05 to indicate a statistically

significant difference. All analyses were performed using Stata 14.2/MP for Linux (College Station, TX).

## RESULTS

### Sequential Living Multiorgan Donation

#### Sequential Donor Characteristics and Outcomes

Among the 49 living multiorgan donors who underwent sequential multiorgan donation operations, 21 donated a kidney-then-liver, 15 donated a liver lobe-then-kidney, 5 donated a lung lobe-then-kidney, 3 donated a liver lobe-then-intestine, 3 donated a kidney-then-pancreas segment, 1 donated a lung lobe-then-liver, and 1 donated a pancreas segment-then-kidney (Table 1). These procedures occurred in all 11 United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) regions. The majority of sequential living multiorgan donors were women (65.3%) and white (77.6%), with a median age at first donation of 38 years (interquartile range [IQR], 28-44 years). Median time between donations was 3.7 years (IQR, 1.8-7.0). Sequential liver-then-intestine donors had the shortest time between donations (IQR, 2-40 days). With respect to donor-recipient relationships, there were 17 (34.7%) donors who donated both grafts to the same recipient. There were a total of 22 nondirected donations, of which 59% were liver, and the remainder were kidney. Of these nondirected donations, 8 were from donors who donated 1 organ to a known recipient and 1 in a nondirected manner. Fourteen recipients received grafts in a nondirected manner from 7 sequential donors, who each donated 2 grafts.

Sequential living donors had a median (IQR) 8.3 (3.1-11.5) years of follow-up for patient survival after their second donation. There was 1 reported death in a sequential donor (kidney-liver) 2.5 years after their second donation. Sequential living donors had median 382 (137-741) days of follow-up for other clinical outcomes, as captured by OPTN reporting. There were no reported intraoperative complications for sequential living multiorgan donors in our study. Although follow-up data in the national registry is limited, one kidney-then-liver donor and one liver-then-kidney donor had liver-related complications after their liver graft donations. Four (8.1%) of 49 sequential living multiorgan donors were readmitted between their first donation and their 6-month follow-up, 4 (8.1%) donors were readmitted between their 6-month and 1-year follow-up visit after their first donation, and 2 (4%) donors were readmitted between their second donation and 6-month follow-up visit. Similar to national trends of missing living donor follow-up data,<sup>16</sup> sequential living multiorgan donors had high rates of missing follow-up data. Of the 21 donors who donated a kidney second, follow-up data were complete for 52.4% at 6 months, 33.3% at 6 and 12 months, and 4.8% at 6, 12, and 24 months. None of the 22 living donors who donated a liver lobe second had complete 6- or 12-month follow-up.

#### Sequential Recipient Characteristics and Outcomes

Among recipients of grafts from sequential living multiorgan donors, 57.2% were women and 76.5% were white, with a median age of (39.5) years (IQR, 32-46.5), although recipient characteristics varied by type of sequential donation (Table 2). For example, each liver-then-intestine donor donated two grafts to the same recipient. These recipients were pediatric

**TABLE 1.** Characteristics of living donors who underwent sequential living multiorgan donation. There were 49 donors who donated organs during separate procedures

	Kidney-then-liver	Liver-then-kidney	Lung-then-kidney	Liver-then-intestine	Kidney-then-pancreas	Pancreas-then-kidney	Lung-then-liver
N (%)	21 (42.9)	15 (30.6)	5 (10.2)	3 (6.1)	3 (6.1)	1 (2.0)	1 (2.0)
Female, %	61.9	66.7	60.0	100.0	66.7	100.0	0.0
Median age at first donation (IQR), y	39.9 (32.8-48.7)	37.8 (27.9-41.8)	30.2 (27.9-43.3)	25.3 (19.3-25.8)	38.4	45.1 (45.1-45.1)	52.3 (52.3-52.3)
Median age at second donation (IQR), y	44.1 (35.4-50.2)	40.8 (35.8-48.3)	47.5 (42.1-48.4)	25.4 (19.3-25.8)	44.2 (34.3-52.2)	46.8 (46.8-46.8)	57.1 (57.1-57.1)
Median time between donations (IQR), y	3.0 (2.0-4.2)	3.7 (0.8-8.6)	11.0 (7.0-16.2)	0.0 (0.0-0.1)	5.7 (1.9-9.1)	1.7 (1.7-1.7)	4.9 (4.9-4.9)
Median BMI at second donation (IQR)	25.8 (21.8-27.2)	26.6 (21.6-28.4)	23.6 (21.5-24.4)	23.6 (20.0-37.3)	23.5 (21.3-25.7)	22.8 (22.8-22.8)	25.5 (25.5-25.5)
Race/ethnicity							
White, %	76.2	80.0	100.0	66.7	33.3	100.0	100.0
African-American, %	9.5	6.7	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0
Hispanic, %	0.0	6.7	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other, %	14.3	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Relationship to first recipient							
Related, %	28.6	80.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Directed, %	38.1	13.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nondirected, %	33.3	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Relationship to second recipient							
Related, %	23.8	60.0	60.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Directed, %	19.0	26.7	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nondirected, %	57.1	13.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MDD for both donations, %	28.6	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Same recipient for both donations, %	9.5	40.0	40.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0

Of these donors, 38% donated 2 grafts to the same recipient and 15% donated 2 grafts as nondirected donors. The kidney-then-liver group had the smallest proportion of donating to the same recipient and the highest proportion of nondirected donations. NDD, nondirected donations.

**TABLE 2.**  
**Characteristics of recipients who received grafts from sequential living multiorgan donors**

	Kidney-then-liver		Liver-then-kidney		Lung-then-kidney		Liver-then-intestine		Kidney-then-pancreas		Pancreas-then-kidney		Lung-then-liver	
First organ	Kidney	Liver	Liver	Lung	Liver	Lung	Liver	Kidney	Kidney	Pancreas	Pancreas	Lung	Lung	Lung
N (%)	21 (42.9)	15 (30.6)	15 (30.6)	5 (10.2)	3 (6.1)	5 (10.2)	3 (6.1)	3 (6.1)	3 (6.1)	1 (2.0)	1 (2.0)	1 (2.0)	1 (2.0)	1 (2.0)
Female, %	42.9	73.3	73.3	80.0	33.3	80.0	33.3	66.7	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Median age (IQR), y	48.6 (30.8-53.6)	52.6 (36.7-63.3)	52.6 (36.7-63.3)	18.8 (15.5-21.2)	1.2 (1.2-1.9)	18.8 (15.5-21.2)	1.2 (1.2-1.9)	35.7 (30.6-40.8)	35.7 (30.6-40.8)	44.5 (44.5-44.5)	44.5 (44.5-44.5)	16.4 (16.4-16.4)	16.4 (16.4-16.4)	16.4 (16.4-16.4)
Median BMI (IQR)	25.2 (20.4-28.3)	25.1 (22.2-28.0)	25.1 (22.2-28.0)	17.3 (15.7-18.3)	NA	17.3 (15.7-18.3)	NA	24.9 (19.4-25.1)	24.9 (19.4-25.1)	24.3 (24.3-24.3)	24.3 (24.3-24.3)	16.9 (16.9-16.9)	16.9 (16.9-16.9)	16.9 (16.9-16.9)
Race/ethnicity														
White, %	71.4	86.7	86.7	100.0	66.7	100.0	66.7	66.7	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
African-American, %	19.0	6.7	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic, %	0.0	6.7	6.7	0.0	33.3	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other, %	9.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Second organ	Liver	Kidney	Kidney	Kidney	Intestine	Kidney	Intestine	Pancreas	Pancreas	Kidney	Kidney	Liver	Liver	Liver
N (%)	21 (42.9)	15 (30.6)	15 (30.6)	5 (10.2)	3 (6.1)	5 (10.2)	3 (6.1)	3 (6.1)	3 (6.1)	1 (2.0)	1 (2.0)	1 (2.0)	1 (2.0)	1 (2.0)
Female, %	61.9	46.7	46.7	60.0	33.3	60.0	33.3	66.7	66.7	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Median age (IQR), y	4.3 (0.9-44.3)	41.3 (20.8-51.6)	41.3 (20.8-51.6)	38.1 (34.9-40.8)	1.3 (1.3-2.0)	38.1 (34.9-40.8)	1.3 (1.3-2.0)	44.8 (32.4-46.4)	44.8 (32.4-46.4)	46.3 (46.3-46.3)	46.3 (46.3-46.3)	24.8 (24.8-24.8)	24.8 (24.8-24.8)	24.8 (24.8-24.8)
Median BMI (IQR)	26.3 (25.7-28.1)	26.0 (24.2-27.1)	26.0 (24.2-27.1)	18.7 (17.8-24.0)	NA	18.7 (17.8-24.0)	NA	24.9 (22.1-25.7)	24.9 (22.1-25.7)	22.6 (22.6-22.6)	22.6 (22.6-22.6)	20.9 (20.9-20.9)	20.9 (20.9-20.9)	20.9 (20.9-20.9)
Race/ethnicity														
White, %	57.1	86.7	86.7	100.0	66.7	100.0	66.7	66.7	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
African-American, %	9.5	6.7	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic, %	9.5	6.7	6.7	0.0	33.3	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other, %	23.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Recipients of the second graft from a sequential donor are a heterogeneous group, both among and between types of sequential multiorgan donors. BMI could not be calculated for recipients of grafts from liver-then-intestine donors due to small body size (median age 1.2 and 1.3, respectively).

**TABLE 3.****Principal diagnosis of recipients who received the first graft donated by a sequential multiorgan donor**

	%
Kidney from a future living liver donor (n = 21)	
Type II diabetes	19.0
FSG	14.3
Polycystic kidney disease	14.3
IGA nephropathy	9.5
Type I diabetes	9.5
Alport syndrome	9.5
Chronic pyelonephritis/reflux nephropathy	4.8
Oxalate nephropathy	4.8
Renal cell carcinoma	4.8
Hypertensive nephrosclerosis	4.8
Chronic glomerulonephritis	4.8
Liver from a future living kidney donor (n = 15)	
Primary sclerosing cholangitis	20.0
Acute hepatic necrosis	13.3
Cirrhosis (alcoholic)	13.3
Unknown	13.3
Cirrhosis (hepatitis C)	6.7
Cirrhosis	6.7
Cirrhosis (steatosis)	6.7
Biliary atresia	6.7
Primary hyperoxaluria	6.7
Polycystic liver disease	6.7
Lung from a future living kidney donor (n = 5)	
Cystic fibrosis	80.0
Obliterative bronchiolitis	20.0
Liver from a future living intestine donor (n = 3)	
Liver disease secondary to TPN or hyperalimentation	100.0
Kidney from a future living pancreas donor (n = 3)	
Type I diabetes	66.7
Type II diabetes	33.3
Pancreas from a future living kidney donor (n = 1)	
Type I diabetes	100.0
Lung from a future living liver donor (n = 1)	
Cystic fibrosis	100.0

FSG, focal glomerular sclerosis; TPN, total parenteral nutrition.

patients between 1 and 2 years of age whose indication for liver transplantation was liver failure secondary to total parenteral nutrition (TPN) or hyperalimentation (Table 3); their indication for intestinal transplantation was gastroschisis (66.6%) or intestinal volvulus secondary to malrotation (33.3%) (Table 4). In contrast, only 9.5% of kidney-then-liver sequential living multiorgan donors donated two grafts to the same recipient. The recipients of the first graft (kidney) were 42.9% female and 71.4% white, with median age 48.6 (IQR, 30.8-53.6), whereas recipients of the second graft (liver) were 61.9% female and 86.7% white, with median age 4.3 (IQR, 0.9-44.3) (Table 2). There were 6 kidney-then-liver donors (28.6%) who donated both grafts in a nondirected manner (Table 1).

Recipients of kidneys from second-time living donors had similar graft survival ( $P = 0.2$ ) (Figure 1A) and patient survival ( $P = 0.4$ ) (Figure 1B) when compared to recipients of kidneys from first-time living donors. Similarly, recipients of livers from second-time living donors had similar graft survival ( $P = 0.9$ ) (Figure 2A) and patient survival ( $P = 0.7$ )

(Figure 2B) when compared with recipients of livers from first-time living donors.

### Simultaneous Multiorgan Donors

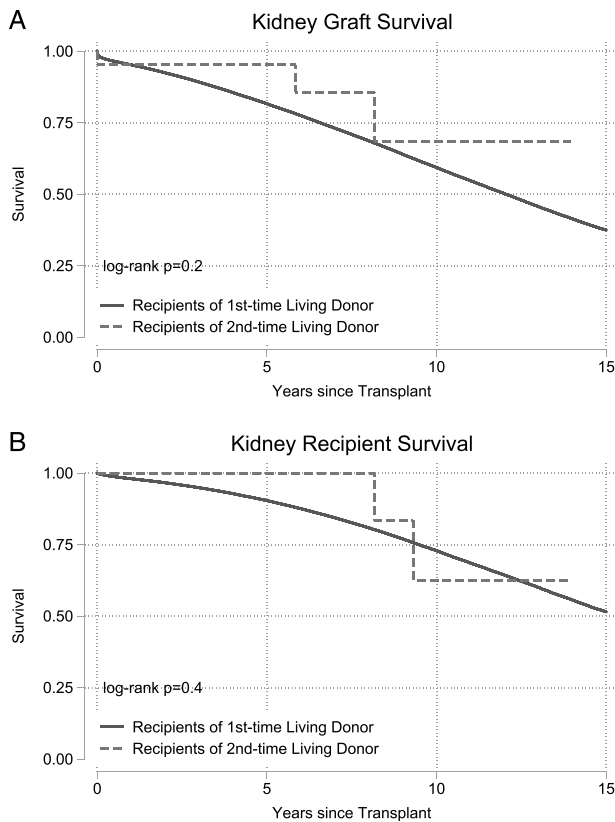
#### Simultaneous Donor Characteristics and Outcomes

Among the 52 living multiorgan donors undergoing simultaneous donation operations, 48 donated kidney-pancreas and 4 donated liver-intestine grafts. All simultaneous living donation procedures occurred in UNOS region 7. Of these, kidney-segmental pancreas simultaneous multiorgan donors were 60.4% female and 79.2% white, with median age of 42.4 years (IQR, 34.9-48.2 years; Table 5), whereas liver-intestine simultaneous multiorgan donors were 75.0% female and 25.0% white, with median age 25.1 (IQR, 21.0-30.3; Table 6). All 52 (100%) donated both grafts to the same recipient (Table 5). The majority (51.1%) of kidney-pancreas simultaneous living multiorgan donors were siblings of the recipient; the remainder of donor-recipient relationships included both biologically related and nonbiologically related family as well as directed and nondirected donation. All liver-intestine simultaneous multiorgan donors were parents

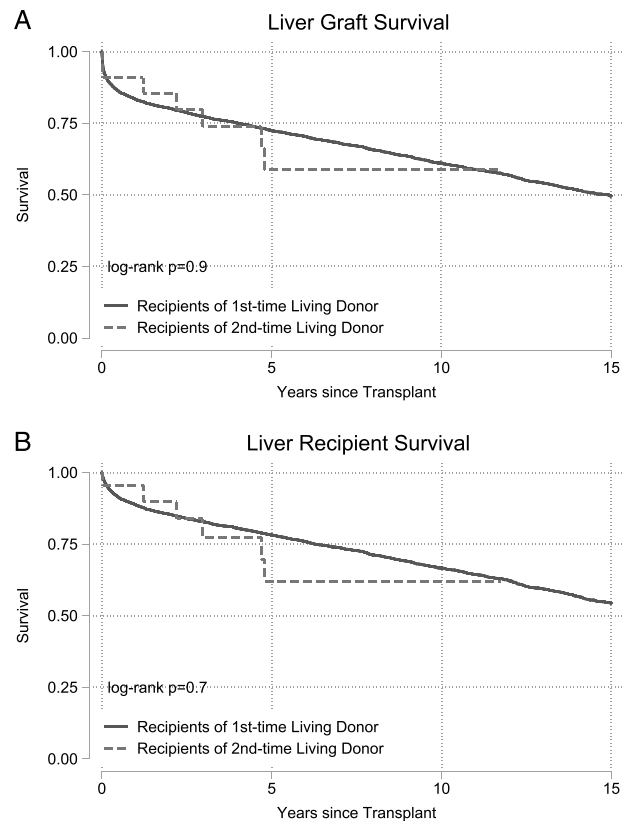
**TABLE 4.****Principal diagnosis of recipients who received the second graft donated by a sequential multiorgan donor**

	%
Liver from previous living kidney donor (n = 21)	
Biliary atresia	38.1
Unknown	14.3
Cirrhosis	9.5
Primary biliary cirrhosis	9.5
Primary sclerosing cholangitis	9.5
Familial cholestasis	9.5
Cirrhosis (Hepatitis C)	4.8
Cirrhosis (alcoholic)	4.8
Kidney from previous living liver donor (n = 15)	
Hypertensive nephrosclerosis	26.7
Unknown	20.0
Polycystic kidney disease	13.3
IGA nephropathy	6.7
Hypoplasia/agenesis	6.7
Cortical necrosis	6.7
Congenital obstructive uropathy	6.7
Type I diabetes	6.7
Type II diabetes	6.7
Kidney from previous living lung donor (n = 4)	
Chronic pyelonephritis/reflux nephropathy	20.0
Calcineurin inhibitor nephrotoxicity	20.0
Wegener's granulomatosis with polyangiitis	20.0
Type I diabetes	20.0
Unknown	20.0
Intestine from previous living liver donor (n = 3)	
Gastroschisis	66.7
Intestinal volvulus secondary to malrotation	33.0
Pancreas from previous living kidney donor (n = 3)	
Type I diabetes	100.0
Kidney from previous living pancreas donor (n = 1)	
Type I diabetes	100.0
Liver from previous living lung donor (n = 1)	
Cystic fibrosis	100.0





**FIGURE 1.** Outcomes for living donor kidney transplant recipients. Recipients of kidney graft from first and second time living donors had no differences in (A) death-censored graft failure ( $P = 0.2$ ) or (B) mortality ( $P = 0.4$ ).



**FIGURE 2.** Outcomes for living donor liver transplant recipients. Recipients of a liver graft from first- and second-time living donors had no differences in (A) death-censored graft failure ( $P = 0.9$ ) or (B) mortality ( $P = 0.7$ ).

of the recipient. Only 2 transplant hospitals reported performing simultaneous multiorgan donations. One transplant hospital performed 39 kidney-segmental pancreas procedures and 1 liver-intestine procedure, and the second performed 9 kidney-segmental pancreas and 3 liver-intestine procedures.

Simultaneous living donors had a median of 18.3 years (IQR, 16.2-20.6 years) of follow-up for survival after their simultaneous donation. There were no simultaneous multiorgan donor deaths reported in the study period. Simultaneous donors had a median of 0 days (IQR, 0-194 days) of follow-up for other clinical outcomes. There were no reported intraoperative or follow-up complications for simultaneous living multiorgan donors. However, 4 (8.35%) of 48 of simultaneous kidney-segmental pancreas donors were readmitted between their donation and 6-month follow-up. One of these donors was also readmitted between their 1-year and 2-year follow-up visits. Like sequential donors, simultaneous living multiorgan donors had high rates of missing follow-up data. None of the 48 kidney donors or the 4 liver donors had complete 6- or 12-month follow-up data.

**Simultaneous Recipient Characteristics and Outcomes**

Recipients of grafts from simultaneous kidney-segmental pancreas donors were 58.3% female and 83.3% white, with median age of 35.9 years (IQR, 31.3-41.6 years; Table 6). Type I diabetes was the primary diagnosis of 89.6% of kidney-segmental pancreas recipients; the remainder of kidney-segmental pancreas recipients had type II diabetes (6.3%), hypertensive nephrosclerosis (2.1%), or an unknown primary

diagnosis (Table 7). Recipients of grafts from simultaneous liver-intestine donors were 75% female and 25% white, with median age of 0.8 years (IQR, 0.8-1.0 years; Table 6). The primary diagnoses for liver-intestine recipients were liver failure secondary to TPN or hyperalimentation (75%) or unknown (25%).

**TABLE 5.** Characteristics of living donors who underwent simultaneous organ donation

	Kidney-pancreas	Liver-intestine
N (%)	48 (92.3)	4 (7.7)
Female, %	60.4	75.0
Median age (IQR), y	42.4 (34.9-48.2)	25.1 (21.0-30.3)
Median BMI at second donation (IQR)	24.2 (22.6-25.9)	26.2 (22.1-31.8)
Race/ethnicity		
White, %	79.2	25.0
African-American, %	6.3	25.0
Hispanic, %	8.3	50.0
Other, %	4.2	0.0
Relationship to first recipient		
Related, %	91.7	100.0
Directed, %	6.3	0.0
Nondirected, %	0.0	0.0
Unknown, %	2.1	0.0
Same recipient for both donations, %	100.0	100.0

There were 52 donors who donated 2 grafts during the same procedure. These donations only occurred at 2 centers in the United States.

**TABLE 6.****Characteristics of recipients who received grafts from a living donor who underwent simultaneous donation**

	Kidney-pancreas	Liver-intestine
N (%)	48 (92.3)	4 (7.7)
% Female	58.3	75.0
Age: median (IQR), y	35.9 (31.3-41.6)	0.8 (0.8-1.0)
BMI: median (IQR)	23.6 (19.8-26.6)	NA
Race/ethnicity		
White, %	83.3	25.0
African-American, %	6.3	25.0
Hispanic, %	10.4	50.0
Other, %	0.0	0.0

Each of the 52 simultaneous donors in our study donated 2 organs to a single individual. BMI could not be calculated for recipients of liver-intestine living donations due to small body size (median age, 0.8 years).

Recipients of kidney-pancreas simultaneous living donor grafts had a median of 14.5 years of kidney graft survival.

**Comparison of Select Living Multiorgan Donor Groups**

Recipients of kidney-pancreas simultaneous living multiorgan donation were similar to recipients of kidney-then-pancreas and pancreas-then-kidney serial multiorgan donation in sex ( $P = 0.5$ ), race/ethnicity ( $P = 0.3$ ), age at first transplant ( $P = 0.7$ ), body mass index (BMI) ( $P = 0.9$ ), and primary diagnosis ( $P = 0.4$ ). Recipients of liver-intestine simultaneous multiorgan donation were younger than recipients of liver-then-intestine serial multiorgan donation ( $P = 0.03$ ) but similar in sex ( $P = 0.3$ ), race/ethnicity ( $P = 0.5$ ), and primary diagnosis ( $P = 0.2$ ).

**DISCUSSION**

In this national registry study, we identified 101 living multiorgan donors and their 133 recipients between 1994 and 2017. Among sequential living donors, 38% donated 2 grafts to the same recipient and 15% donated 2 grafts as non-directed donors. Most sequential living donors donated a kidney followed by a liver segment. Simultaneous donation was limited to 2 transplant hospitals and most simultaneous donors donated a kidney and partial pancreas. Living multiorgan donors had a median 13.4 years of follow-up after their second donation and there was one reported sequential donor death 2.5 years after their second donation. There were very few reported complications for living multiorgan donors and their recipients' outcomes were comparable with recipients of first-time living donors.

Many disease conditions requiring multiorgan transplantation are dire, notably those in the pediatric population where waitlist mortality exceeds 25%.<sup>9</sup> Intestinal failure followed by TPN-induced liver failure is a primary cause of disease in this population, and it is common to use deceased organs in these cases.<sup>17</sup> In 2005, Testa et al<sup>11</sup> reported the first use of living donors to treat this organ failure scenario, and other small series have documented further instances of this practice.

In our national study, there were only 7 cases of liver-then-intestine donation, 3 sequential and 4 simultaneous. In the available literature, provider preference favors sequential donation, providing the liver segment first to correct the coagulopathy and pathology associated with liver failure, then

to provide a partial small intestinal graft of ileum into the improved host environment to allow for cessation of TPN dependence and enteral feeding.<sup>17</sup> This logical treatment explanation does not take into consideration the risks to the donor, undergoing 2 major abdominal operations in sequence in a relatively short timeframe. It also does not allow for an appreciation of the rarity of living donor small-bowel transplant itself, let alone in the multi-organ donation setting. Despite the first living donor small-bowel transplant being performed 20 years ago, living donors account for less than 1% of small bowel transplants in the United States each year,<sup>12</sup> with only 36 documented in the literature before 2006.<sup>18</sup> In the case of multiple organ donations, Testa et al<sup>11</sup> share that the donor, "underwent double operative stress and was potentially exposed to the complications of 2 major operative procedures." Although limited by incomplete and missing follow-up data, we found no major reported complications from the 2 operative procedures in our study.

A series of 13 patients undergoing liver-kidney sequential multiorgan donation was published, and the authors were lauded for their use of this novel technique to expand the donor pool in a country with limited access to living donation.<sup>4</sup> More than half of the recipients in this group were pediatric, and a mean interval between surgeries was 9.6 months. This length of time between donor operations does allow for donor recovery from hepatectomy before undergoing nephrectomy, and as the authors argue, should not have increased risks above and beyond the risk of having each major operation separately. However, this small case series may underestimate the occurrence of infrequent complications or those that develop in the long-term as donor follow-up is not well described. We identified 15 liver-kidney sequential multiorgan transplants in the US registry, demonstrating that this is a relatively rare procedure nationwide.

Combined with the case series above and a few individual cases documented in other countries, the volume of liver-kidney sequential living multiorgan donation is insufficient to draw conclusions about donor risk.<sup>2,7</sup> As one author describes, "Is the ethical issue of the risks to the donor a matter of arbitrarily defining an acceptable risk?"<sup>7</sup> Although we agree that conceptualizing risk is often difficult, the transplant community has an ethical obligation to protect living donors from undue harm.<sup>19</sup> These uncommon yet emerging

**TABLE 7.****Principal diagnosis for recipients who received grafts from simultaneous living donation**

	%
Kidney-pancreas (n = 48)	
Diabetes type I	89.6
Diabetes type II	6.3
Hypertensive nephrosclerosis	2.1
Unknown	2.1
Liver-intestine (n = 4)	
Liver disease secondary to total parenteral nutrition (TPN) or hyperalimentation <sup>a</sup>	75.0
Unknown	25.0

<sup>a</sup> One patient noted both secondary liver disease and intestinal volvulus secondary to malrotation as primary diagnoses (UNOS code 6002).

procedures require improved and enhanced donor follow-up to build risk profiles prospectively as surgical science advances.

Kidney-pancreas donation comprised the most common form of simultaneous multiorgan donation, with 48 cases identified in the SRTR since 1994. The first living donor simultaneous pancreas-kidney transplant was reported in the US in 1994.<sup>20,21</sup> Much of the literature on donor outcomes after living pancreas-kidney donation has focused on short-term perioperative complications, rather than long-term complications. Consistent with our findings, no cases of perioperative death have been reported in available literature.<sup>20,22</sup> Significant perioperative complications related to pancreatectomy, such as pancreatitis, abscess, or fistula, have been reported in less than 5% of living donors in case series, while reoperation and splenectomy due to bleeding, ischemia, or abscess have been noted in 5% to 20%.<sup>22-26</sup> Data on long-term outcomes are limited, but a recent study of 45 living pancreas donors that included 69% simultaneous kidney donations found that over a mean postdonation follow-up period of 16.3 years, 26.7% filled prescriptions for diabetes treatments, compared with 5.9% of kidney-alone living donors (odds ratio, 4.13; 95% confidence interval, 1.91-8.93;  $P = 0.0003$ ).<sup>27</sup> These findings suggest a more than fourfold increase in the incidence of diabetes after living kidney-pancreas donation, a concern that warrants longer follow-up and investigation to adequately understand risks to the donor.

Our study was limited by the small sample size available in the SRTR database, which impacted our ability to measure survival postdonation. Additionally, for certain subgroups, only 2 centers nationally perform these multiorgan donation procedures, making it difficult to draw generalizable inferences. We found follow-up data on living donors to be minimal up to the required 2 years, and even sparser thereafter, which is similar to national trends.<sup>16</sup> Particularly for living multiorgan donors who undergo 2 complex surgical procedures, the standardization of long-term follow-up nationwide would help to collect the data necessary to better describe donor risk.

We found that the donation of multiple solid organs from the same living donor is a rare practice in the United States with only 101 cases over the past 2 decades. Careful documentation and postdonation follow-up of these living donors is needed to describe donor risk, to inform appropriate informed consent, and to optimize postdonation care for this very unique community of living donors.

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