

# Not just small adults: Pediatric liver transplant recipients need special care

January 17 2017

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A new review discusses important consideration when caring for children who have received liver transplants.

Young patients process immunosuppressive agents differently than older patients, which can have effects on [drug absorption](#), distribution, metabolism, and excretion. Children will also be exposed to [immunosuppressive drugs](#) longer than adults, which can impact their growth and their long-term risk of infection and cancer.

"Caring for children after liver transplantation is extremely rewarding thanks to their excellent outcomes," said Dr. Tamir Miloh, lead author of the *Liver Transplantation* review. "Tailoring the immunosuppressant regimen in pediatrics is complex, however, due to physiologic differences in pharmacokinetics, impact on growth and development, infection risk, carcinogenesis, and likelihood of non-adherence on one hand and tolerance on the other. Pre-transplant and continuous post-transplant caregiver and patient education is crucial for optimal outcomes."

**More information:** Tamir Miloh et al, Immunosuppression in pediatric liver transplant recipients: Unique aspects, *Liver Transplantation* (2017). [DOI: 10.1002/lt.24677](https://doi.org/10.1002/lt.24677)

Provided by Wiley

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