

Mayo Clinic Minute: How innovation is transforming heart transplants

Mayo Clinic doctors are using innovation to improve the lives of people who suffer from congestive heart failure and other chronic heart conditions. The Organ Care System, also known as "heart in a box," is potentially helping to expand the donor pool, which is crucial, considering that more than 4,000 people in the U.S. are waiting for a new heart. That's according to the organization [Donate Life America](#).

[Dr. Lisa LeMond](#), a Mayo Clinic cardiologist, explains how the heart perfusion system works.

Video	Audio
	Every second matters as the transplant team races against the clock to provide patients with a lifesaving gift.
	(nats machine beeping)
Lisa LeMond, M.D. Cardiovascular Medicine Mayo Clinic	"In this country, there are not enough hearts to meet the needs of all of the patients who could potentially qualify for a heart transplant."
	Dr. Lisa LeMond says innovation is improving transplant surgeries. Typically, donor hearts are retrieved from a person who is declared brain-dead but whose heart is still beating. Now, with a relatively new heart perfusion system, often called "heart in a box," doctors can revive the donated heart.
	"We now have this new technology that allows us to place the donor hearts into a special machine which delivers blood and controls the temperature to the heart to allow it to start beating."

	It can preserve the donated heart for up to 12 hours, potentially expanding the donor pool and giving hope to more patients.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Sonya Goins.