



Testimonial...

We found out on our 22 week scan that Lennon would not survive outside the womb due to fetal abnormalities. He had no fluid around him which meant that his kidneys, bladder and lungs did not develop. We went in every two weeks for our scan but unfortunately there was no improvement and we had to come to terms with what was happening.

As we had time to process our situation we made the decision to donate Lennon's heart valves hoping that we could save another family from going through the same heartache. After we mentioned our decision to the staff, they were amazing. They organized everything for us and kept us updated with what was happening and how the process worked.

Lennon was born on 23rd February 2016 and on the 6th February 2020 we received the wonderful news that his heart valves were used and that he saved two babies lives. We were so happy and proud that our little boy helped save those families from the heartache.

Sarah and Anthony Byrne



If at any point you do not wish to proceed with donation this will in no way affect the care the staff are providing for YOU or YOUR baby.

If you would like further information please contact:

Transplant Coordinators,
Cardiothoracic Transplant Programme
Mater University Hospital, Eccles Street, Dublin 7

t| 01803200 e| transplantco@mater.ie



Infant Heart Valve Donation for Transplantation



Building a
Better Health
Service

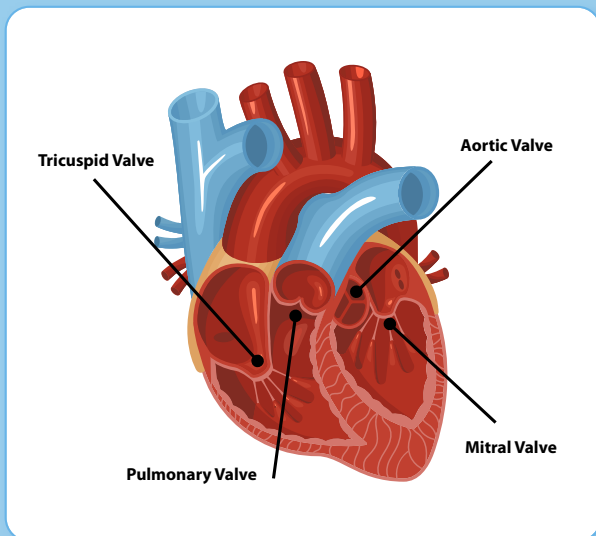
Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt



Why is Infant heart valve tissue donation important?

The Human Heart has four valves and each can be transplanted to help up to four patients. Heart valves donations are used to repair congenital heart defects in babies and to replace diseased heart valves in adults.

The 'aortic' and 'pulmonary' valve are in particular need.



My baby is eligible to donate. What is involved for me and my baby?

The nurse/midwife and doctor looking after your baby will take you through the process of donation in a step by step process in advance of redirection of care.

1. The transplant coordinator in the Mater hospital will be contacted and a history given. They will confirm your baby's eligibility to donate.
2. Consent forms and lifestyle questionnaire will need to be completed. The staff in the hospital will assist you to complete these forms.
3. Blood from mother and possibly baby will be required for virology screening and tissue typing.
4. In most cases your baby's medical team will also speak to the coroner* either prior to the passing of your baby or at the time of your baby's passing.
5. An echocardiogram (a procedure using electrodes and ultrasound to check how your hearts chambers and valves are pumping blood through your heart) may be requested by the coroner prior to the passing of your baby.
6. A social worker, chaplain and bereavement specialist will be contacted in the hospital to provide you with additional support and guidance as required.

* The coroners core function is to investigate sudden and unexplained deaths so that a death certificate may be issued.

Procedure Involved

If you wish to proceed with donation the organ transplant coordinator at the Mater Hospital will be notified.

The retrieval team will come to your hospital within four hours of your baby's passing. However, in rare cases the team may be already out at another site and unable to readily accept our request. Every effort will be made by your hospital and the coordination team in the Mater to facilitate the successful donation of your baby's heart valves.

The retrieval process takes less than one hour and will happen on site in the hospital's operating theatre.

You can accompany your baby to the theatre up until the retrieval surgery commences. Your nurse or doctor will provide guidance.

Once the procedure is completed you will be reunited with your baby.

Can I follow up?

Heart valves may be stored for up to five years in the Irish heart valve bank. The transplant coordinator will write to you to give an update unless you request not to be contacted.

The identity of your baby and the person who received the donation is kept confidential at all times.