

# FAMILY IMPACT:

Parental Health-Related Quality of Life and Family Functioning Following Pediatric Heart Transplantation



Pediatric heart transplantation (Tx) is a life-saving treatment associated with life-long medical follow-up.

For parents, the burden of complex care can disrupt family roles and increase family stress.



## OBJECTIVES

We assessed the association between pediatric heart Tx and parents' health-related quality of life (HRQOL) and family functioning using the Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory™ Family Impact Module (PedsQL™ FIM).

## METHODS

Participants:

- 108 parents of 79 patients
- 66 mothers & 42 fathers



Parents completed the PedsQL FIM independently and family demographics were collected.



## RESULTS

We found that parents of heart Tx recipients experienced increased worry. These results align with literature that finds that parents of heart Tx recipients feel chronically worried about their child's long-term health.

We found a link between improved HRQOL and family functioning for:

1

Parents of older patients at time of Tx

2

Parents of patients with increased time since Tx

3

Parents with additional familial children

## CONCLUSION

Findings support clinical recommendations to assist parents throughout the Tx trajectory.

Click below to learn more about our lab and this project:

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