

AMIT MATHUR: We developed the Mayo Clinic Hispanic Transplant Program to help close a gap in transplant care and access for patients in the Hispanic population. Among Hispanic patients, we know that there are significant barriers to organ donation and in access to transplantation. And so we develop this program in order to help educate patients about the safety of living donation, about how important it is to donate organs, as well as to help elucidate the importance of seeking a transplant for end-stage renal disease.

The survival benefit of kidney transplant is not to be understated. And we felt that this was an optimal opportunity to change the way we deliver this education to patients.

DIEGO MEDINA ALBINO: In the Hispanic culture, in Hispanic community, individuals were not coming forward with living donation. We didn't know if it was a language barrier or cultural barrier. So we wanted to address those issues or concerns. And when we established the program, that was the idea behind it, to make sure we were able to cater to this community and address those issues, or those questions, or concerns that they may have.

JULIETA DELGADO: Our Hispanic population is one of the largest ethnic groups in the nation. And we actually needed a class like the one we're providing here at Mayo Clinic. One of the concepts of the class is not only providing information to the potential recipients and their family members, but also providing information to the living kidney donors.

A lot of the patients we have fear what it might be. A lot of kidney donors think they're going to be taking medication forever. And they're not. So we're trying to provide them information in their language so they understand fully what living donation is.

AMIT MATHUR: Our outcomes are among the highest in terms of graft and patient survival in the United States. So we are uniquely positioned, not just to perform standard-of-care transplants, but also to provide innovations in care that will help improve and optimize the care that patients receive.

From a personal standpoint, I find it immensely satisfying to see patients who thought they could never be transplanted, or were worried about having a transplant really be able to achieve that, and achieve quality of life, and length of life that they're really seeking. And I find that immensely satisfying. Because I know that it's not only personally rewarding for that patient, but it affects their whole family unit.