

Heart–lung transplantation

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Combined heart–lung transplantation is an excellent treatment for PAH (Figure 92.10). However resolution of right ventricular dysfunction has been observed consistently after bilateral lung transplantation, making it the favoured option in the vast majority of patients. Currently , the main indication is in congenital heart disease with pulmonary hypertension. Early post-transplant survival remains lower than after lung transplantation. After a peak of activity in the late 1980s, the number of procedures has steadily declined to less than 100 /year per annum. Organ allocation systems are weighted towards directing hearts and lungs separately to urgently listed patients, making combined heart–lung donor blocks a rarity for these patients.

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