

The surgeon performed a liver transplant.

A *transplant* can also be an organ or tissue that is transferred, but the American Medical Association (AMA) style guide advises authors to use *graft* or to name the organ or tissue instead.³

Not recommended: We examined rates of transplant survival after liver transplant.

Recommended: We examined rates of graft survival after liver transplant.

Whereas *transplant* can be used as a count noun (a noun naming something that can be counted, like *cells*) or a noncount noun (a noun naming something that cannot be counted, like *oncology*), transplantation should only be used as a noncount noun. In other words, authors should not refer to “a transplantation” or “transplantations”.

Correct: She underwent bone marrow transplantation 2 months before presenting to our clinic.

Incorrect: The surgeon performed a kidney transplantation.

Incorrect: All of the patients had stem cell transplantations.

To *transplant* is a transitive verb, and its use is straightforward: organs, tissues, and cells can be transplanted, but patients cannot be transplanted.

Correct: Surgeons transplanted the donor liver into the recipient.

Incorrect: The patient was transplanted with a new liver.

References

1. Transplant. In: *Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary*. 32nd ed. Elsevier/Saunders; 2012: 1954.
2. Stem cell transplant, Bone marrow transplant. In: *NCI Dictionary of Cancer Terms*. Accessed November 30, 2022. <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/>
3. Frey T, Young RK. Correct and preferred usage of common words and phrases. In: Christiansen S, Iverson C, Flanagin A, et al. *AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors*. 11th ed. Oxford University Press; 2020. Accessed November 30, 2022. <https://academic.oup.com/amamanualofstyle/book/2>

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— Stephanie Deming

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