The shortage of cadaveric liver grafts for transplantation has been almost as old as the liver transplantation itself. Living donor liver transplantation has emerged as a solution to ameliorate this problem and increase the number of patients who get an organ, decreasing the mortality in the waiting list. It started initially as an option exclusively for pediatric patients with the parents as donors. As the outcomes showed excellent results for patient and graft survival, living donor liver transplantation started to be used in the adult population too.

Adult to adult living donor liver transplantation has been a common practice in many transplant centers worldwide. The results of the first cases showed that it is a feasible but very challenging operation with high technical demand and with non-negligible morbidity and mortality for the donor. Multiple ethical considerations rose after the first donor death, which led to the halt of the procedure in many centers.

Today the experience from centers with high volume of adult to adult living donor liver transplantation cases has shown that it can help improve the problem of the organ shortage; however it has to be performed with meticulous selection of donor and recipient and only in specialized institutions with long established and successful living donor programs.

Biography
Dr Arvelakis is an assistant professor of surgery at Yale University School of Medicine and a transplant surgeon at Yale New Haven Hospital Transplantation Center. His clinical fields of expertise include liver transplantation, living donor liver transplantation, pediatric and adult liver transplantation, kidney and pancreas transplantation. Dr Arvelakis obtained his MD degree from the University of Athens Greece Medical School and his transplant training at the University of Miami and at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York.