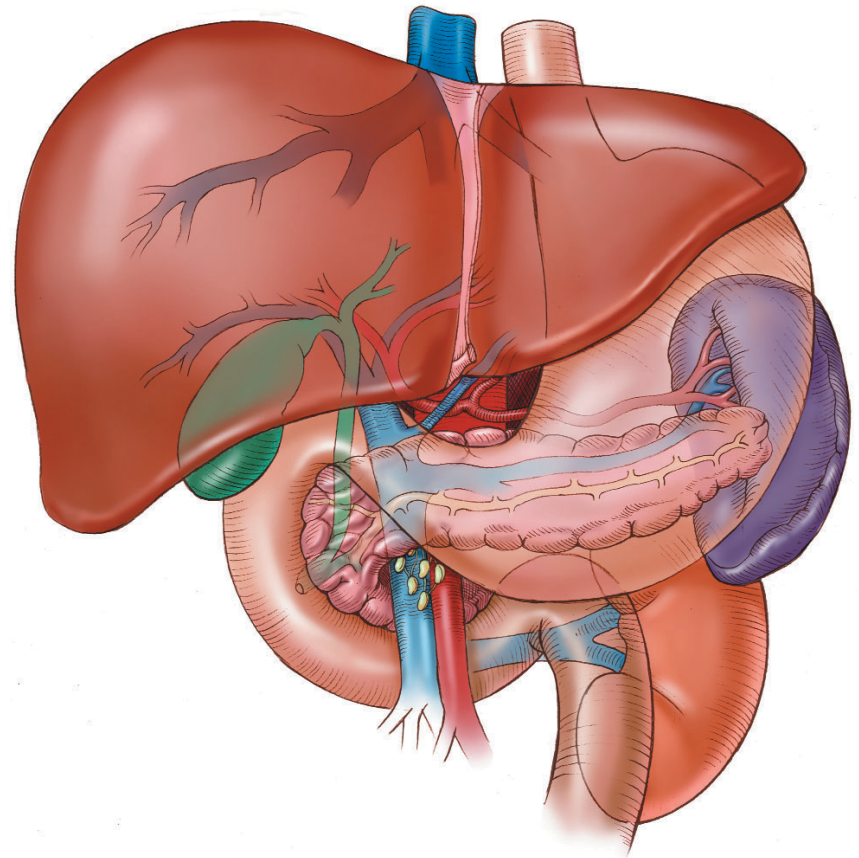


# Surgery



**UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM**  
*in Coordination with*  
**The University of Texas Health  
Science Center at San Antonio**

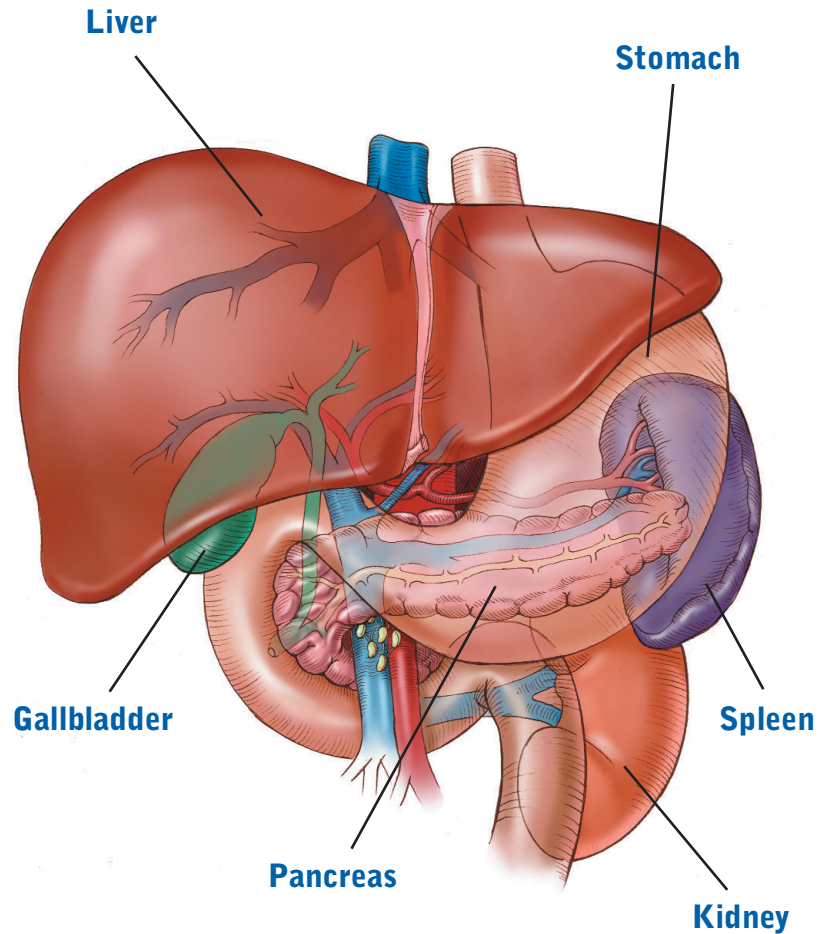
4502 Medical Drive MS 18  
San Antonio, TX 78229-4493  
(210) 567-5777  
Toll Free 1-888-336-9633  
Fax (210) 567-5122  
[www.universityhealthsys.com](http://www.universityhealthsys.com)  
[www.uthscsa.edu/Transplant/index/htm](http://www.uthscsa.edu/Transplant/index/htm)



At University Hospital  
*in Partnership with*  
**The University of Texas  
Health Science Center  
at San Antonio**



The liver is the largest internal organ. It is located on the right side of the body and is protected by your ribs.

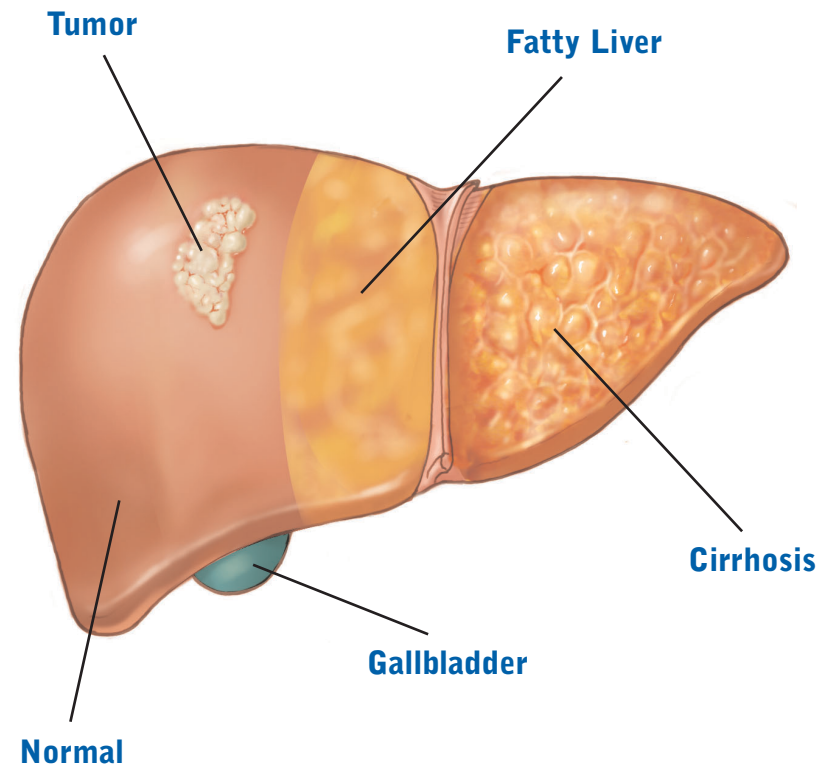


The liver has many functions in the body:

- 1 Helps in digestion of food.
- 2 Helps distribute nutrients such as vitamins and minerals.
- 3 Helps clean your blood by removing medications and toxins.
- 4 Manufactures proteins that help your blood clot and promote healing.

When the liver is not working properly:

- 1 Absorption of vitamins and nutrients is decreased.
- 2 Waste products are not effectively removed from the body.
- 3 The proteins that help your body clot your blood are reduced.
- 4 Your body is unable to get needed food to provide energy and promote healing.

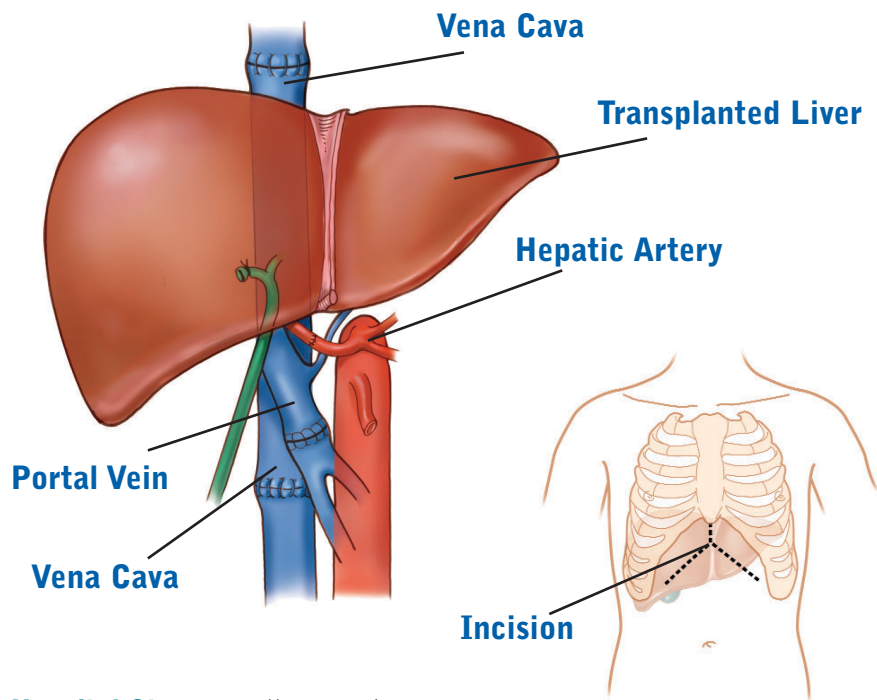


## Treatments

There may be different options available to treat your liver disease.

### Liver Transplant

- Procedure is 3-5 hours long.
- Under general anesthesia (you will be asleep during the operation).
- The incision is shaped like a boomerang.
- The old liver is removed.
- The donor (new) liver is inserted and surgically attached to your blood vessels and bile ducts.



**Hospital Stay:** Usually 6-10 days

**Recovery Time:** 3-6 months

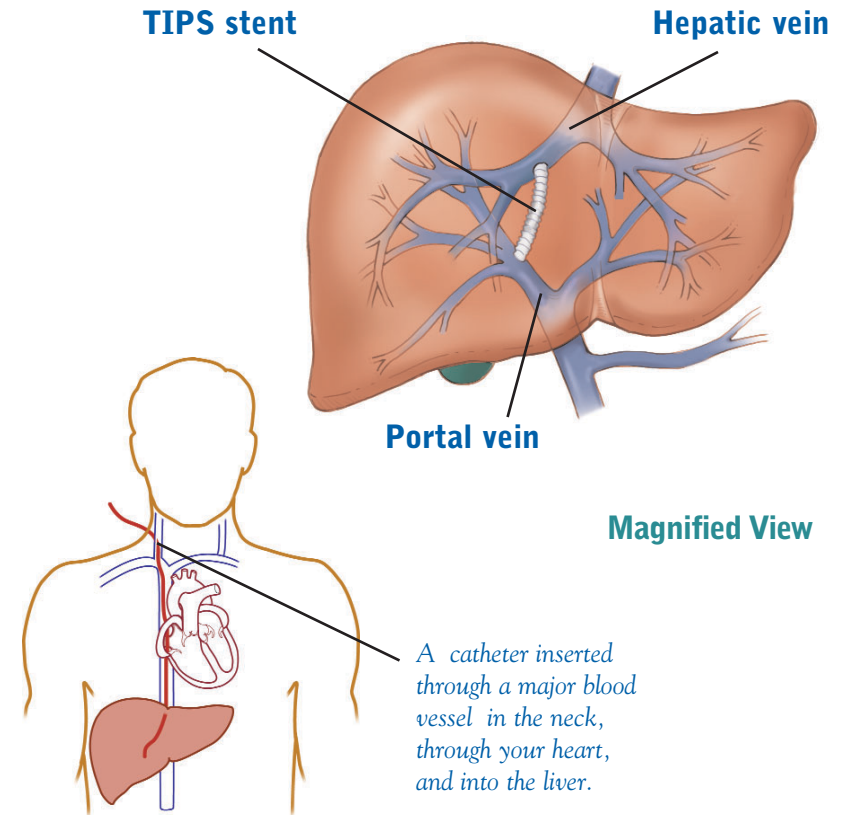
**Follow-up:** office visits, lab work, and medication adjustments weekly for 4 weeks, monthly for 3 months, then every six months (or more often if needed) for the rest of your life

**Complications:** infections, bleeding, rejection, re-transplant, and death

### TIPS: (Transjugular Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunt)

Radiology procedure that re-routes blood flow in the liver and decreases blood pressure which causes varicies and ascites (helps decrease internal bleeding). Before this procedure you will be given medications that will help you relax.

*\* This procedure is sometimes used as a bridge to decrease liver failure complications until transplant*



**Hospital Stay:** 1-2 days

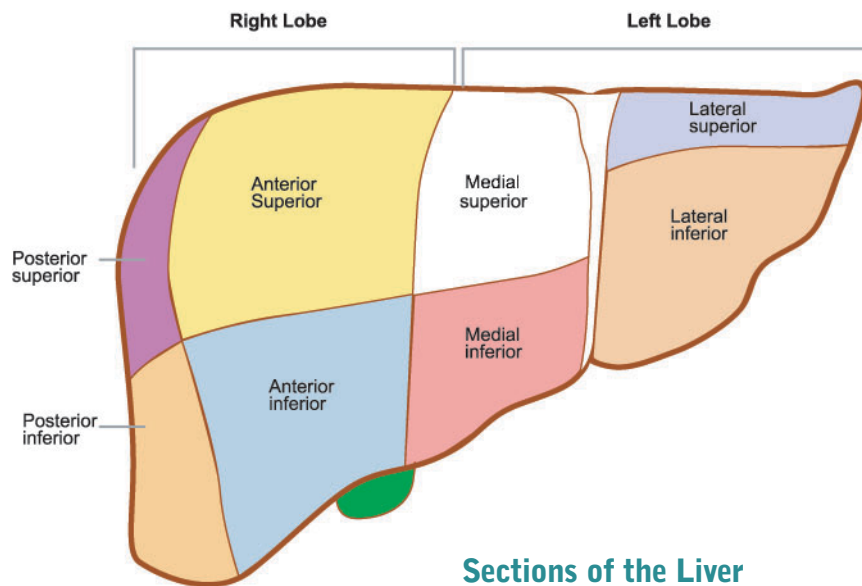
**Recovery Time:** 2-6 weeks

**Follow-up:** every 3-6 months with sonogram and possible adjustment of stent

**Complications:** may cause increase ammonia levels which can lead to confusion, sleepiness, and coma

**Partial Resections\*:** Partial removal of diseased liver by surgery. After your surgery your remaining liver may enlarge to meet your body's needs if it is not cirrhotic (scarred).

*\*May be helpful for some liver illnesses/tumors.*

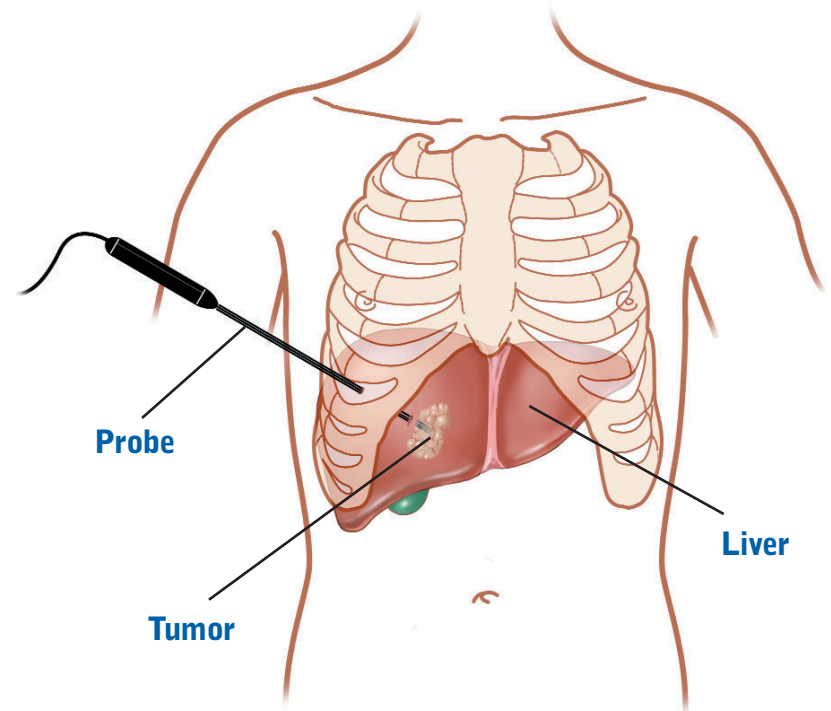


**Hospital Stay:** 5-7 days  
**Recovery Time:** 8-12 weeks  
**Follow-up:** 1-2 weeks for suture removal, then as needed  
**Complications:** infection, bleeding, death

*\*We may also refer you to an Oncologist for chemotherapy and radiation treatment if lesion is cancer.*

**Heat Ablation:** RITA- (Radio Intensified Thermal Ablation) probe inserted through skin "shrinks" and isolates small tumors within the liver.

*\*This procedure is sometimes used as a bridge to slow the growth of small liver cancers until transplant.*



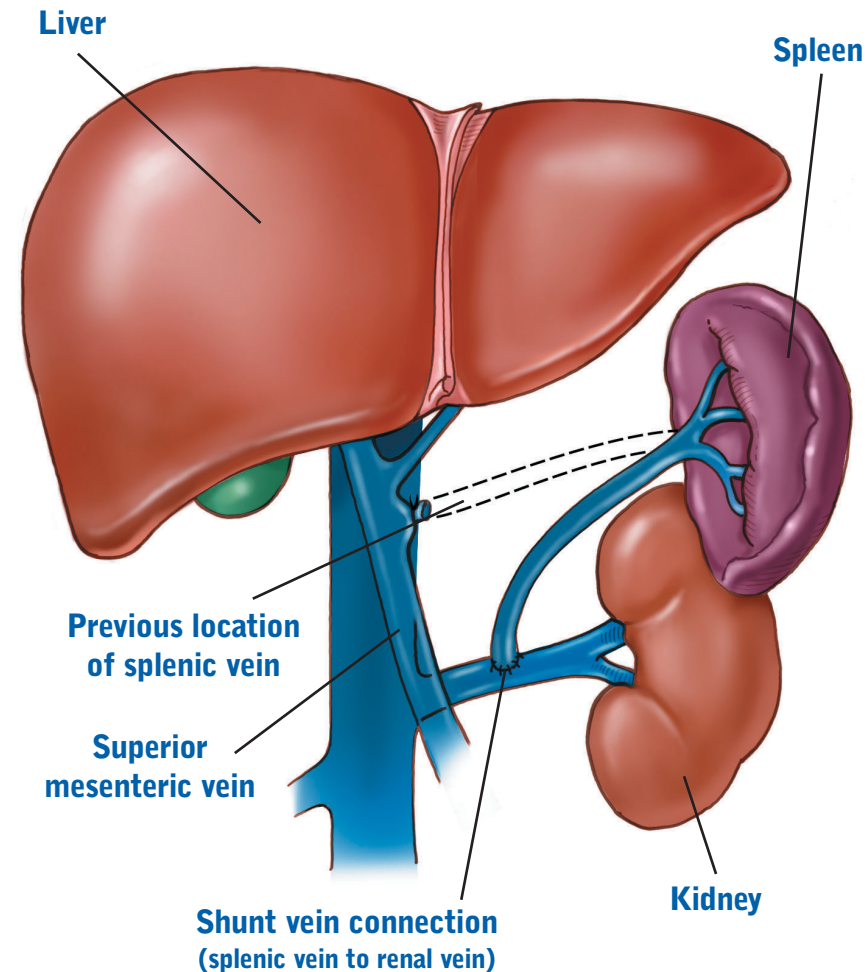
**Hospital Stay:** overnight  
**Recovery Time:** 2 weeks  
**Follow-up:** CAT scans and blood work every 3 months  
**Complications:** infection, bleeding, death

*\*We may also refer you to an Oncologist for chemotherapy and radiation treatment if lesion is cancer.*



**Shunts:** surgical procedure\* that re-routes the blood flow to the liver to prevent variceal bleeds (internal bleeding)

*\*Can be used for certain liver illnesses adjustments*



**Hospital Stay:** 3-5 days

**Recovery Time:** 8-12 weeks

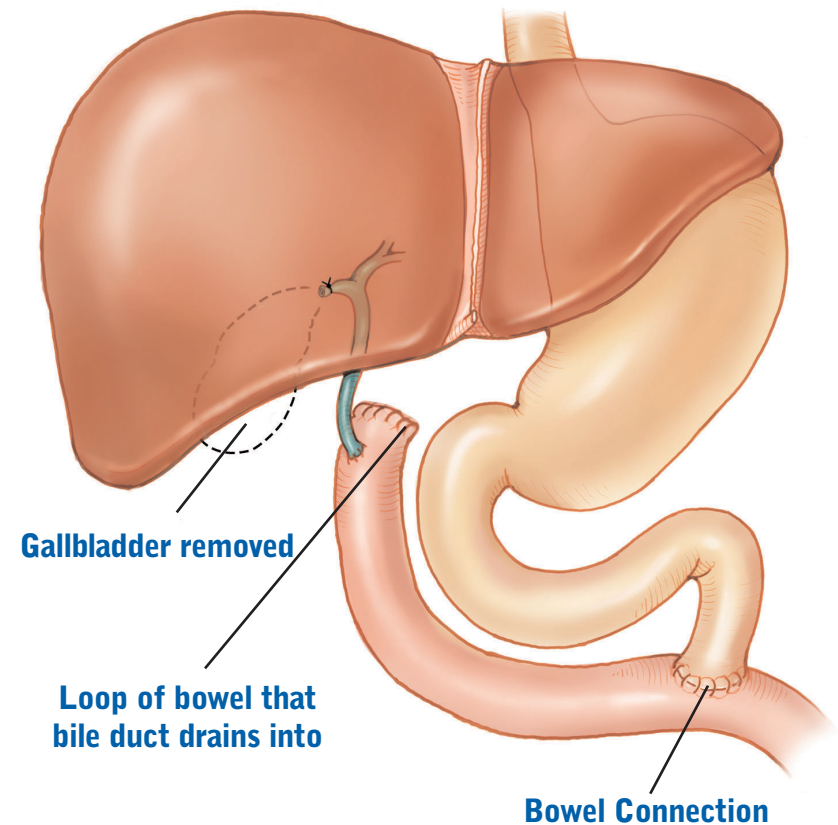
**Follow-up:** 2 weeks for suture removal, then as needed

**Complications:** infection, bleeding, death

*\*We may also refer you to an Oncologist for chemotherapy and radiation treatment if lesion is cancer.*

**Heat Ablation:** surgical procedure\* that reconstructs the anatomy to bypass biliary strictures, pancreatic masses, and gallbladder cancers

*\*Can be used for certain illnesses/tumors*



**Hospital Stay:** 3-5 days

**Recovery Time:** 8-12 weeks

**Follow-up Care:** 2 weeks for suture removal, 2-6 month cholangiogram, then as needed

**Our Team consists of many highly specialized health care professionals including:**

- 1 Transplant/liver surgeons**
- 2 Hepatologist (Liver specialist)**
- 3 Surgical Nurse Coordinator**
- 4 Social Service**
- 5 Physician assistants**
- 6 Specialized anesthesiologist**

**You may be required to see, if necessary:**

- 1 Cardiologist (Heart doctor)**
- 2 Pulmonologist (Lung doctor)**
- 3 Nephrologist (Kidney doctor)**
- 4 Oncologist (Cancer doctor)**
- 5 Radiologist (X-ray doctor)**

## Directions

**From IH 10 West (northbound):** Exit Medical Drive/Wurzbach. Take Frontage Road to Medical. Turn left onto Medical. Turn left into University Hospital entrance. Follow signs to visitor parking.

**From IH 10 West (southbound):** Exit Wurzbach. Turn right onto Wurzbach. Turn left on Medical Drive. University Hospital is on the right. Turn right at second entrance. Follow signs to visitor parking.

**From NW Loop 410:** Take Babcock exit. Head north on Babcock to Wurzbach (about three miles north of 410). Turn right on Wurzbach. Turn right on Medical. University Hospital is on the right. Turn right at second entrance. Follow signs to visitor parking.

