

Kidney Transplant

About Kidney Transplant

A kidney transplant is a surgery done to replace a diseased kidney with a healthy kidney from a donor. A person getting a transplant most often get just 1 kidney. The diseased kidneys are usually left in place. The transplanted kidney is placed in the lower belly on the front side of the body.

Having a kidney transplant is often regarded as the best treatment choice for people who are progressing to End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD).

The option of receiving a kidney transplant is a wonderful opportunity because it can increase your chance to live a longer and healthier life!

Types of Kidney Donations

Living

- Occurs when a patient receives a kidney from a live person – friend, family or other
- Benefits include
 - Shorter transplant wait time
 - Better organ function
 - Shorter hospitalization stays with easier recovery

Paired

- If your donor does not match you, they give the kidney to someone who does. You receive a kidney that matches you from a different donor.

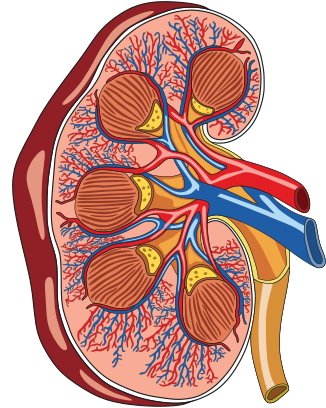
Deceased

- The transplant comes from a deceased donor
- Wait times vary but may be 3 to several years

It is important to speak with your local transplant clinic to get the best and most up to date information on what services they offer, the wait time in your area, and the criteria and expectations to have a successful transplant.

Since the wait time varies for a deceased donor, it is important to get on the transplant list right away. UNOS, (Network of Organ Sharing) matches donors and recipients. Your healthcare team can provide you with information on your local transplant center(s).

Kidney Transplant



What is the recipient surgery like?

- Surgery may take 2-4 hours
- Patients should be able to return to work within 4-8 weeks
- Old kidneys are usually not removed
- New kidney is placed in the front of body near the bladder

What is the donor surgery like?

- It is not scheduled until the evaluations are complete on both donor and recipient
- Surgery may take 2-3 hours
- Return to normal activity within 4-8 weeks
- Have follow-up with transplant clinic for check-up, then return to regular physician for care

Who can be a living donor?

- A donor has to be physically healthy. Each transplant center has its own criteria. They will complete the evaluation.
- All risks and benefits of living donation are discussed in detail and a living donor can change their mind at any time.

Who pays for the procedure?

The transplant center will provide a financial coordinator to discuss your insurance benefits and explain all costs.

REMEMBER... TRANSPLANT IS A TREATMENT, NOT A CURE!