

Frequently Asked Questions: Living Kidney Donation

Q: What are possible problems associated with the surgical removal of a donated kidney?

A: Possible problems include risks related to general anesthesia (being put to sleep), infection, and bleeding.

Q: Does the procedure/surgery result in scarring?

A: In most cases, the incision heals quickly and leaves a visible scar that will fade with time.

Q: Can a living donor have children after donating a kidney?

A: Yes, men and women are able to have children after being a living donor.

Q: Does donating a kidney change a living donor's lifestyle?

A: A living kidney donor should be able to return to normal activities after healing from the surgery. However, some armed services branches and some police and fire departments do not accept persons with one kidney.

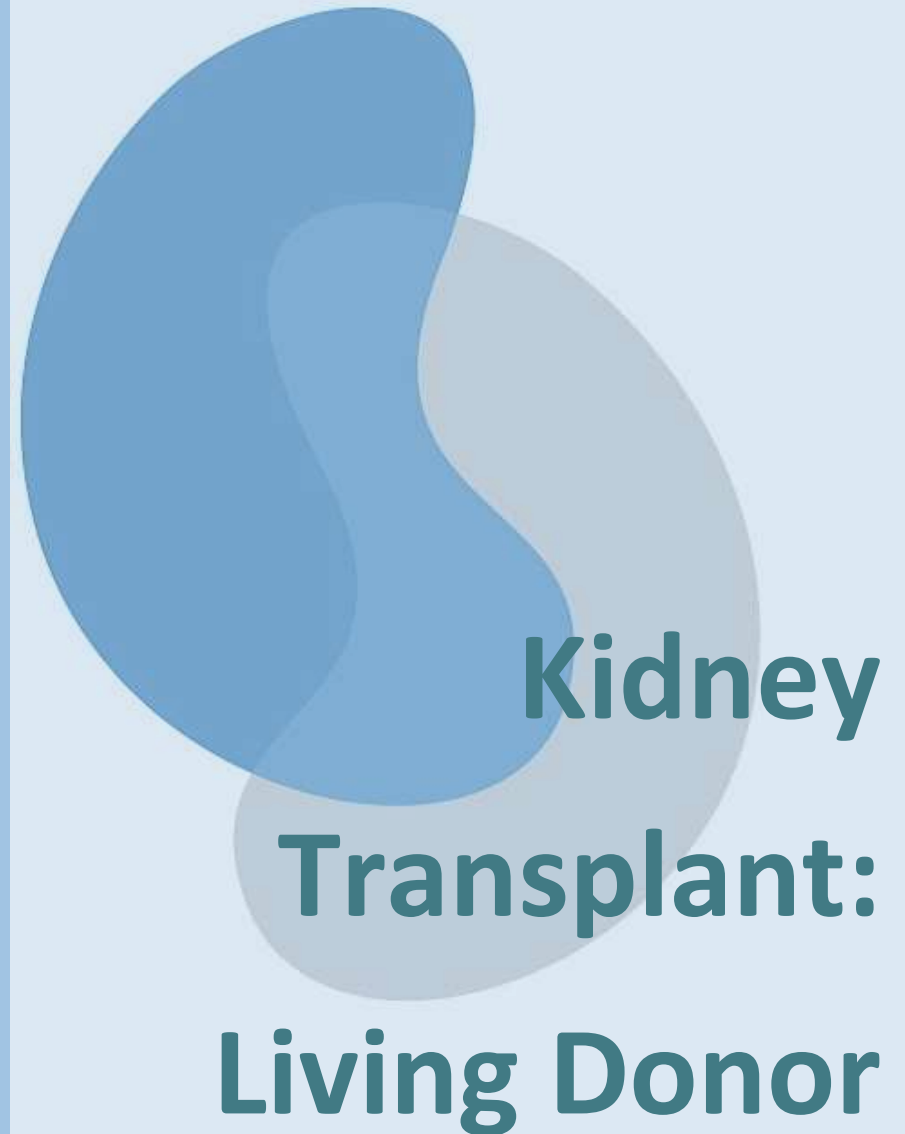
Q: Can a living kidney donor obtain insurance with only one kidney?

A: Most living donors do not encounter difficulty obtaining insurance. A transplant coordinator can assist with any insurance-related questions.

Q: Does a living donor pay for any of the medical costs associated with the transplant?

A: No, a living kidney donor should not expect to pay for any medical expenses related to the transplant. However, expenses such as lost wages, travel costs, childcare, and daily living expenses should be considered.

Kidney Education



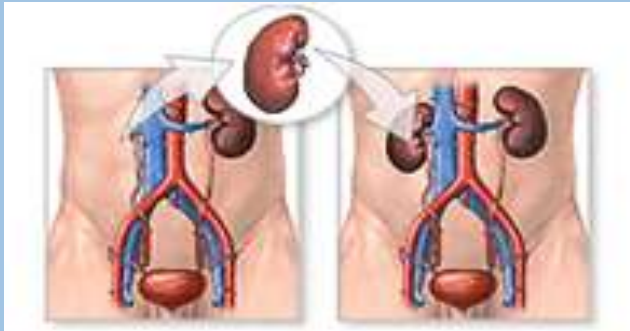
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What is a Kidney Transplant?

Kidney transplantation is the surgical placement of a healthy kidney in a patient with advanced kidney disease. Kidney transplant has several steps for the person receiving the new kidney:



- The kidney transplant process begins with a medical evaluation to make sure that a potential transplant patient is healthy enough for the surgery.
- If a patient qualifies for the transplant surgery, all **potential living kidney donors for a patient also undergo a medical evaluation.** However, having a living donor is NOT a requirement for a patient to receive a kidney transplant.
- All patients who are candidates for transplant are added to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) waiting list for a **deceased donor** kidney donation.

If a patient is not a candidate for transplant surgery, there are other options (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) to replace failed kidney function.

Who can be a Living Kidney Donor?

Living kidney donors are most often

- between 18 and 70 years of age
- the same blood type as the recipient (patient)
- in good overall health, but each potential donor is evaluated individually, and
- family members or friends of the kidney recipient.

Living kidney donors

- do **not** have to be related to the patient who will receive the kidney, and
- can remain anonymous.

How does someone become a living donor?

Step 1 Medical Evaluation All potential living kidney donors undergo a medical evaluation to determine if he or she is healthy enough for surgery and a good match for the patient.

Step 2 Decision If the potential donor is a good match for the recipient and is in good health, he/she must decide whether being a living kidney donor is the right choice. A trained transplant coordinator will help the potential donor consider a variety of factors.

Step 3 Expenses A living donor's transplant-related medical expenses are usually covered by the kidney recipient's insurance.

Living donation is a voluntary process; the potential donor is free to change his/her mind at any time during the process.