

TP01lite Kidney Transplant

Expires end of December 2019

A more detailed version of this procedure specific information sheet is available. Please ask your health practitioner at Joondalup Health Campus for a copy.

Write questions or notes here:



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This document will give you information about a kidney transplant. If you have any questions, you should ask your GP or other relevant health professional.

What is a kidney transplant?

A kidney transplant is an operation to transfer a kidney from one person (donor) to another (recipient).

If it is suitable, a kidney transplant is the best treatment for people who have kidney failure.

What are the benefits of surgery?

You should feel better and be able to have a more normal lifestyle.

Are there any alternatives to surgery?

The only alternative is to continue with dialysis and treatment with medication.

What does the operation involve?

The operation is performed under a general anaesthetic and usually takes about two hours but can take longer.

Your surgeon will make a cut on your groin and make a space for the transplanted kidney between the muscle layer and the peritoneal cavity.

Your surgeon will attach the artery and vein connected to the kidney to the main artery and vein that supply your leg. They will join your ureter to the top of your bladder. Your surgeon may insert a stent (tube) in your ureter to protect the join (see figure 1).

What complications can happen?

1 General complications

- Pain
- Bleeding
- Unsightly scarring
- Developing a hernia
- Blood clots
- Infection of the surgical site (wound)

2 Specific complications

- Blocking of the blood vessels
- Blocking or leaking of your ureter
- Delayed working of the kidney
- Acute rejection of the kidney
- Infections
- Collection of fluid
- Temporary damage to nerves
- Transferring cancer or infection

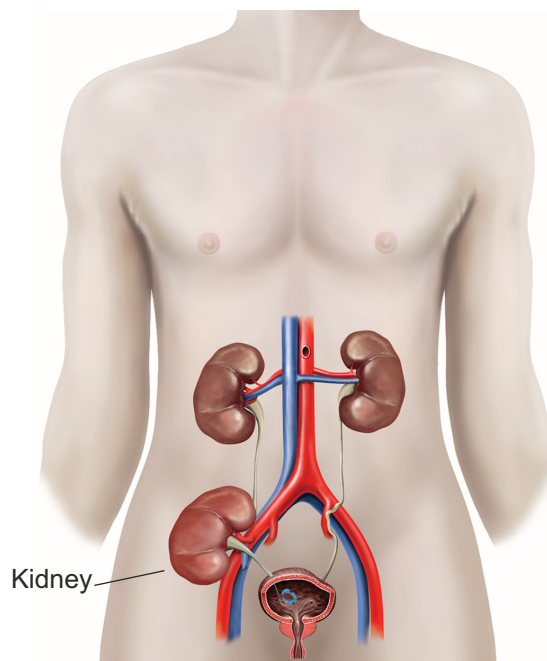


Figure 1

The position of a transplanted kidney

3 Long-term complications

- Failure of the kidney
- Blocking of your ureter
- Narrowing of the artery that supplies the kidney
- Death

How soon will I recover?

You should be able to go home after 5 to 10 days. It usually takes about two to three months to return to normal activities. During this time you will be at a higher risk of infection.

Regular exercise should help you to return to normal activities as soon as possible. Before you start exercising, ask the healthcare team or your GP for advice.

For a small number of people the original kidney disease may happen again.

Summary

If it is suitable, a kidney transplant is the best treatment for kidney failure. You should feel better and be able to have a more normal lifestyle.

Acknowledgements

Author: Mr Keith Rigg FRCS MD
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