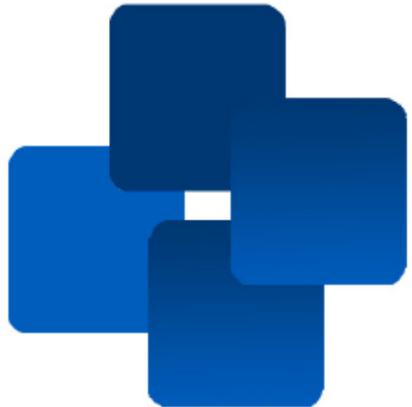


A Guide to Incompatible Living Kidney Donation

Lister Hospital

Renal Transplant
Department



Incompatible Living Kidney Donation

This leaflet is aimed at providing you with information regarding incompatible living kidney donation. Sometimes a donor and recipient will not be compatible either by blood group or by tissue typing.

In some cases the antibodies which are causing the incompatibility may be removed from the recipient. If it is not possible to remove them then there is the option of the paired and pooled exchange programme.

Antibody Removal

Antibodies are part of the body's natural defence against infection. Some antibodies may attack and damage a kidney transplant. There are also antibodies against incompatible blood groups, or against tissue types which are rare but may develop in some people after pregnancy, blood transfusion or previous transplantation.

The treatment involved in reducing antibodies is called desensitisation. It is a process similar to that of haemodialysis known as plasma exchange. This treatment is not always possible or successful.

Approximately four weeks before the transplant date the recipient will be started on medication which reduces the rate that antibodies are produced. Immunosuppressant medication will be started two weeks before the transplant date and the recipient will continue to take this following the transplant.

It is common to have between four and ten sessions of plasma exchange. The day before the transplant blood tests are taken to check that the antibody levels are low enough. There is a chance that the procedure may not result in removal of enough antibodies to make the transplant possible and therefore the operation would be cancelled or postponed.

In the first week following transplantation the recipient will receive three to four more sessions of plasma exchange.

This treatment allows people with high antibody levels to receive a transplant, however, it should be understood that there is an increased risk of an early rejection episode and possible transplant failure.

National Living Donor Kidney Sharing Scheme [NLDKSS]

Paired Programme

When a donor agrees to give one of their healthy kidneys to a known recipient, the donor and recipient will be assessed to find out if they're suitable for an exchange. In some cases, the donor and recipient blood groups or tissue types are mismatched or incompatible. If so, as a pair, they can be put forward for 'paired donation', where they are matched up with another donor and recipient in the same situation.

Pooled Programme

Sometimes, more than two donors and two recipients will be involved in a swap. This is called 'pooled donation'. Each recipient gains from a transplant that they would not otherwise have had. The donors might not have given their kidney to the person they know, but that person will have received a kidney from one of the other pooled donors.

With pooled and paired donation, all the donor and recipient operations are planned to happen on the same day so the organs can be exchanged at the same time.

Complete confidentiality is preserved, so none of the recipients will know whose kidney they have, and none of the donors know who has received their healthy kidney.

All transplant centres use national guidelines to work up potential donors so please do not be concerned regarding the quality of the donor kidney.

The length of time it takes to find a match depends on the number of donor and recipient pairs on the national register. It is important to understand that it is not possible to say how long you will wait before a suitable match is found.

Every three months a matching run is carried out in an attempt to find a suitable set of exchanges. At present paired (2-way) and pooled (3-way) exchanges are sought under the NLDKSS.

If you require further information please speak with the renal transplant co-ordinators.

Useful Resources and Further Information

NHS Blood and Transplant
www.nhsbt.nhs.uk

NHS Organ Donation—Living Kidney Donation
www.organdonation.nhs.uk

UK National Kidney Federation
www.kidney.org.uk

Booklets

Living Donor Kidney Transplantation, Your Questions Answered, Roche

A Patient's Guide to Kidney Transplantation, Roche

Kidney Transplant Guide, Addenbrookes Hospital

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