



Word Search Puzzle: Kidney Transplant

Did you know that kidney transplantation is a treatment option for people with kidney failure? This option requires a surgical procedure to implant a healthy kidney from a donor. A donor can be a living family member, friend or stranger; it can also be someone who has passed away, but had decided they wanted to be a donor while they were still alive. A kidney transplant is not for everyone, but if you are considering a transplant, it is important for you to be evaluated by staff at a transplant center to see if you qualify. Take this word search puzzle challenge and learn more about transplant as a treatment option.

E	R	O	T	R	A	N	S	P	L	A	N	T	P	U	N	O	S	D	H	K	B
P	E	F	K	A	E	R	A	E	C	I	V	R	E	S	R	O	N	O	D	T	P
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J	K	P	R	E	T	N	E	C	T	N	A	L	P	S	N	A	R	T	L	Q	R
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K	I	D	N	E	Y	A	L	L	O	C	A	T	I	O	N	S	Y	S	T	E	M

Word Bank:

KIDNEY
TRANSPLANT
IMMUNOSUPPRESSANTS
KIDNEY SWAP
TRANSPLANT CENTER
LIVING DONOR
REFERRAL
APPOINTMENTS

WAITLIST
MULTI-LISTED
BLOOD TYPE
DONOR SERVICE AREA
NON-LIVING DONOR
MATCH
TISSUE TYPE
ELIGIBILITY

RECIPIENT
KDPI SCORE
EPTS SCORE
REFERRAL GUIDE
KIDNEY ALLOCATION SYSTEM
UNOS
FREEDOM
HEPATITIS C

Glossary of Definitions:

KIDNEY: Most people have two kidneys, each the size of a clenched fist. They are located on either side of the mid-upper part of the back. The kidneys are our organs responsible for cleaning the blood of waste products, fluid, and excess nutrients; they also help to produce hemoglobin and maintain healthy bones.

TRANSPLANT: This is a surgical procedure in which a surgeon places a functioning kidney in a person whose kidneys are not working well enough to support their health. This is an optional treatment for kidney failure, however it is not a cure.

IMMUNOSUPPRESSANTS: After a kidney transplant, the recipient's immune (or fighter) cells will recognize the transplanted kidney as foreign and will try to eliminate it; this is called rejection. Transplant recipients need to take medications to help prevent this process; these are also known as anti-rejection medications.

Glossary of Definitions:

KIDNEY SWAP: A kidney swap program, also called a paired exchange program, allows a living kidney donor who is not compatible with the intended recipient to exchange kidneys with another donor-recipient pair. Participating in the kidney swap program allows for a recipient to receive a matched kidney, and helps other individuals who would otherwise continue to wait for a matched donor.

TRANSPLANT CENTER: Many hospitals around the country have certified transplant center programs. These are the only institutions that can medically evaluate you for, and provide, a kidney transplant. New York has thirteen certified transplant centers. You are not limited to a transplant center in your city. To review all transplant centers in NY state, please refer to the last page of this resource.

LIVING DONOR: This is a person who actively and willingly decides to donate one of his or her working kidneys to you or another person. Living donor kidneys usually work better and last longer than cadaver kidneys. Recipients of kidneys from living donors generally have fewer complications. Also, a living donor kidney provides the recipient control over the timing of the surgery (it is scheduled versus waiting on the list and hoping for a call).

REFERRAL: The process by which your information is sent to a transplant center to begin the evaluation that determines if a kidney transplant is safe for you. You may be referred to a transplant center for evaluation by your dialysis facility or doctor. Some transplant centers accept patients who are self-referred, while others request that the referral is made by the dialysis facility.

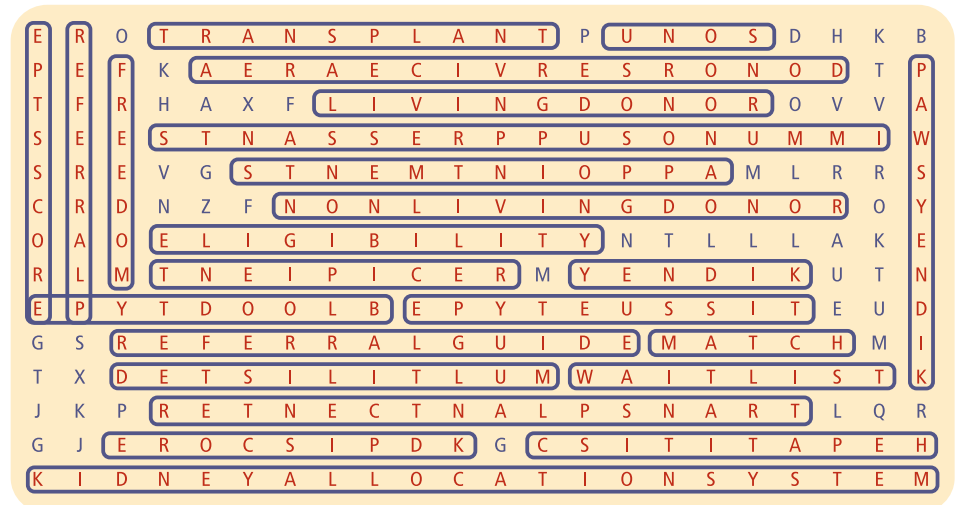
APPOINTMENTS: A transplant evaluation will include multiple medical appointments, often at the transplant center, including your initial evaluation after referral. In addition, other medical appointments might be required to check other aspects of your health such as your heart, your abdomen, your blood vessels, your oral care, etc.

WAITLIST: After a transplant center has evaluated your medical, psychosocial and financial situation, and a kidney transplant is determined to be a safe option, you are added to a national waiting list from which deceased donor kidney transplant offers are made. The average waiting time of patients who do not have a living donor is about four (4) years.

MULTI-LISTED: You can be referred, evaluated and put on the transplant waitlist with more than one transplant center at the same time. This expands your chances of getting a kidney sooner if the transplant centers are in different donor service areas.

BLOOD TYPE: Normally, humans have one of four blood types (A, B, AB and O). Traditionally, transplants were performed only between patients with the same blood type. More recently, however, kidney transplant surgery is not limited to receiving a kidney from an individual of the same blood type. If your living donor is a different blood type than you, you should both be evaluated by a transplant center.

DONOR SERVICE AREA: This is the geographical area from which kidney (and other organs) become available. Because kidneys are often (but not always) placed in the same area that they came from, being on the waitlist at transplant centers located in different donor service areas increases your chances of getting a kidney offer sooner.



To file a grievance, please contact us:

IPRO End-Stage Renal Disease Network Program

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Glossary of Definitions:

NON-LIVING DONOR : When a patient is added to the transplant waitlist, he or she is waiting for a person to pass away in order to receive their working kidney(s). Kidneys are used from donors only if the donor has decided that they want to become an organ donor when they were alive or if their families/next of kin authorized the donation.

MATCH: When a kidney that matches your health needs becomes available (from a living or deceased donor), it is considered to be a match for you.

TISSUE TYPE: This refers to a marker in your cells that is used to verify the compatibility between the organ donor and the recipient to see if the kidney is a match. This term is also referred to as the matching between a recipient and the donated kidney.

ELIGIBILITY: Eligibility for a kidney transplant means that a person has met all of the requirements that a transplant center believes are important to assure that kidney transplantation is a safe option for the recipient. Eligibility criteria include medical, financial, social, surgical, and psychological factors, among others. Each transplant center has a unique set of eligibility criteria; if you are not eligible at one transplant center, you may want to consider being evaluated by a different transplant center.

RECIPIENT: The person receiving the kidney transplant is referred as the recipient. The person receiving a kidney could be a person in the late stages of chronic kidney disease, or someone who is currently having dialysis treatment for end stage renal disease.

KDPI SCORE: The Kidney Donor Profile Index (KDPI) is a score that takes into account several factors that predict how long a deceased donor kidney is likely to function when compared to other kidneys. Although lower values of KDPI are associated with an increased quality and expected longevity of a kidney, accepting a higher KDPI offer might still be a good option for some patients, as it would likely reduce the waiting time. In general, older recipients on the list at centers with long waiting times benefit from accepting these types of kidneys.

EPTS SCORE: The Estimated Post-Transplant Survival (EPTS) score is assigned to each person on the transplant waitlist. The score allows to prioritize kidneys who are expected to last longer with individuals who are expected to live many years. This score is used along with the KDPI to help match recipients to donated kidneys in the kidney allocation system.

REFERRAL GUIDE: The ESRD Network of New York Transplant Center Referral Guide is a resource available to you that summarizes the absolute exclusion criteria of all transplant centers located in NY. This resource allows you to make an informed decision about the transplant center(s) that would be best for you. Ask your facility social worker or nurse for a copy of the Network's guide.

KIDNEY ALLOCATION SYSTEM: This is a set of rules that the people who manage the national transplant waitlist follow to place a donated kidney with the goal of assuring that the waiting period is equitable and fair to every person listed.

UNOS: The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) is the organization that manages the transplant waitlist. When your transplant center informs you that you have been added to the transplant waitlist or are "waitlisted," it means that your information has been provided to UNOS, and you are officially waiting to be called when an organ becomes available for you. The waiting list is national, so your kidney offer could come from anywhere in the United States.

FREEDOM: A successful kidney transplant can free you from dialysis treatments and/or chronic kidney disease. It is also possible that with this treatment modality you feel physically better and with more energy to do the things you enjoy. The transplanted kidney is cleaning your blood 24 hours a day, instead of the average 12 hours a week that other dialysis modalities can offer!

HEPATITIS C: This is a virus that can damage a person's liver if left uncured over many years. The virus is passed from person to person via body fluids, mostly commonly blood. Currently there are several medications available that cure hepatitis C and prevent it from causing permanent damage to a person's liver. A person waiting for a kidney can agree to receive a kidney from a donor who had hepatitis C, and then be cured for this condition (meaning that the virus did not have time to cause liver problems). Many patients who are willing to accept a kidney from a donor with hepatitis C experience a shorter time on the waitlist and often receive very good quality kidneys. Discuss with your transplant center if they offer this program.



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