Understanding Living Kidney Donor Surgery and After Care

In partnership with:

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin
National Kidney Foundation of Wisconsin
Objectives

Upon completion of this learning session, participants should be able to:

• Discuss the medical and surgical aspects of donation

• Discuss the financial and insurance aspects of donation
Donor Surgery

- Laparoscopic donor nephrectomy

  - Kidney is removed through a small incision through the stomach

  - A special instrument with a camera and one hand inserted to assist with removal of kidney

  - Surgery 2-3 hours

  - Hospital stay 2-5 days

  - Expected recovery 4-6 weeks
Post-op

• Role of post-donation coordinator
• No heavy lifting x 6 weeks
• No driving for up to 6 weeks
• 1st post-op visit 7-14 days after surgery
• 2nd post-op visit 6 months after surgery
Post-op

• If no complications or concerns, donors follow-up yearly, for the rest of their life, with their doctor for physical exam and to maintain regular health screening

• Transplant centers are required to report donor outcomes to UNOS for 2 years after donation

• Long-term outcomes of donation
Live Donor Coverage

• Donor testing, surgery, hospitalization, post-op visit, and complications are billed to the recipient’s insurance through the transplant center.

  Donor’s insurance should NOT be billed.

• Some private health insurance policies may pay for travel/lodging for the donor. Please refer to the individual benefits policy.
"Looks like your medical insurance does not cover pre-existing organs."
Donor Expenses

- Expenses related to other health conditions identified during the donor evaluation and regular health maintenance

- Travel, Lodging and Food

- Lost or reduced wages while hospitalized and recovering
Personal Insurance Considerations

• Highly recommend personal health, life, and disability insurance
  – Prior to initiating donor work-up/testing
  – Pre-existing condition barrier

• Health Insurance Options
  – Impact of new laws, Affordable Care Act (ACA)
  – Resources (Transplant Social Workers, Financial Liaisons, Certified Application Counselors)

• HealthCare.Gov
  – 1-800-318-2596
  – https://www.healthcare.gov/
Assistance for Donors

- Some States/Companies have Donor Leave laws to provide time off for donors
- Tax Deduction programs in various states
- Employers may allow donors paid time off for donation
- Employers may allow donors to use short term disability or paid time off as they recover
- National Living Donor Assistance Center: Foundation to assist with travel/lodging benefits
- Fundraising
Transplant Fundraising for Donor Expenses

- Help Hope Live
  - www.helphopelive.org – 800-642-8399

- National Foundation for Transplant
  - www.livingdonorassistance.org – 888-870-5002

- American Transplant Foundation
  - www.americansTransplantfoundation.org – 303-757-0959

- Children’s Organ Transplant Association
  - www.cota.org - 800-366-2682
Financial Recommendations

• Donors should obtain/maintain their own health insurance

• Donors should obtain short or long term disability prior to the donation

• Donors should consider obtaining life and disability insurance prior to the donation
Thank You

A special thanks to our partners at the National Kidney Foundation of Wisconsin

For more information:
http://www.kidneywi.org/
www.kidneyregistry.org
www.transplantliving.org
www.ustransplant.org
www.unos.org
http://www.froedtert.com/transplant

For more information about living kidney donation, please contact the Froedtert Living Kidney Donor Team at (414) 805-0310