Living Kidney Donation: Giving the Gift of Life

In partnership with:

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

• Discuss who is eligible for living kidney donation and what is involved in the medical evaluation

• Discuss paired kidney donation and the National Kidney Registry

• Discuss how to use social media to find a living donor
Growth of Living Donation

• Deceased donor supply does not meet recipient demand
• Better tissue matching
• Anti-rejection medications offer improved success rates, regardless of tissue matching
Benefits of Living Donation

• Less time on the waiting list
• Recipient will be in optimum health
• Transplant is a scheduled, planned event
• Live donor kidney usually starts functioning earlier
• Better long-term graft survival rates
Living Donor Kidneys Last Longer
Well matched living donor kidneys last even longer

Graft half life. The point in time when exactly 50% of kidneys are still functioning

Source: 2010 OPTN/SRTR Annual Data Report,
Published in American Journal of Transplantation 2012 12 (Suppl 1)
Ten Year Overall Adjusted Graft Survival

Pre-emptive Living Donor Transplant vs. Dialysis

Living Donor Considerations

- Altruistic
- Must have two kidneys
- Blood group compatible (incompatible - Paired Exchange)
- Age 18-60ish
- Related or unrelated
- In excellent health
- Financial preparedness
- Good support systems
- Commitment
Living Kidney Donor Exclusions

- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Kidney disease
- Cancer
- Obesity
- Active/untreated substance abuse
- HIV positive
Living Kidney Donor Evaluation

- Screening (questionnaire and blood type)
- Medical Testing
- Independent Living Donor Advocate
- Multidisciplinary Evaluation
- Committee
Options for Living Kidney Donation

• Altruistic
• Directed
  – Related
  – Emotionally-related
• Blood Group Incompatible
• Positive Cross-match
• Non-directed in Paired Exchange
  – Local
  – National
Paired Exchange

Swap

Chain

Good Samaritan Donor

R
D
R
D
R
D
R
D
Etc.
How Do You Ask?

• Normal to feel apprehensive, scared/worried
• Awareness- educate yourself
• Develop a plan

  1. Enlist a buddy (advocate)
  2. Create a script (disclose your medical condition)
  3. Make an outreach list
  4. Get comfortable with your own story- “from the heart”

• Inform - Conversation, e-mail, letter, newsletter, Holiday card, Facebook, Twitter, Website, i.e. 
  www.caringbridge.org
Starting the Conversation

• Recipient should understand their disease and transplant status

• Recipient should discuss their need for an organ transplant with family and friends

• Network outside of immediate family/friends
  – Religious Organization/School/Co-Workers

• Be a steward for organ donation and transplantation
Who is in Your Support System

- Family
- Friends
- Co-workers
- Members of religious organizations
- Social clubs
- School – former classmates
- Other Transplant Patients
Donor Champion

• By definition is usually someone who wanted to donate but was ruled out because of their own health issue or children who are too young to donate themselves.

• Let’s people in the circle know that their loved one is experiencing health issues and is in need of a kidney transplant

• Friends and family are often eager to spread awareness about their loved ones health issues.
Why Do We Need a Donor Champion?

• Transplant candidates are hesitant to discuss their illness, dialysis and are reluctant to pursue live donation.

• 1 out of every 4 people would be willing to donate if they knew that a family member, community member or even a stranger were in need of an organ.
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