Understanding Living Kidney Donor Surgery and After Care

Sept. 22, 2015

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
Options for Living Kidney Donation

- Good Samaritan
- Directed
  - Related
  - Emotionally unrelated
- Blood Group Incompatible Program
- Positive Crossmatch Program
- Non-directed in Paired Exchange Program
  - Local
  - National
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

• 1\textsuperscript{st} post-op visit 7-14 days after surgery

• 2\textsuperscript{nd} 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.helpphopelive.org – 800-642-8399

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

• American Transplant Foundation

• 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
Living Kidney Donation: What is it REALLY?

• Please join us on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015 @ 6 p.m.

• Panel discussion with living donors and transplant recipients
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