

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Living donor kidney transplantation

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Renal transplantation is considered to be a treatment of choice in majority of patients suffering from end-stage renal failure (ESRF). It replaces all functions of failed kidneys; it improves quality of life and long-term survival of patients with ESRF. Renal transplantation is also the most cost-effective form of treatment for patients with ESRF. The interest in living donor kidney transplantation increases since its beginning in the 1990s. The main reason is severe shortage of organs suitable for transplantation due to low cadaveric organ recovery together with an increasing number of patients on the transplant waiting list. Kidneys harvested from living donors have been associated with better results (both long- and short-term) compared to cadaver grafts. There is a possibility to schedule living kidney donor transplantation before a patient with ESRF needs a regular dialysis treatment. (pre-emptive transplantation). In cases of spousal donor kidney trans-

plantation, ABO blood group incompatibility or positive cross-matches exclude about 30–40 % of potential donors from donating the kidney to their spouse. Exchange donation between pairs of spouses has been suggested as a possible solution to this problem. The risks of living donation are low, so kidney donation is safe.

Conclusion: Every patient with the indication of kidney transplantation as well as his family have to be informed about the possibility of transplanting a kidney from a living donor. The patient and the family should be informed before the process of dialysis is started.*

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