



CHRISTIANA CARE  
HEALTH SYSTEM

# Surgical Assessment of the Potential Kidney Transplant Recipient

S. John Swanson, III, MD, FACS  
Chief, Kidney Transplant  
Christiana Care Health System

# Outline

- Why transplant?
- Contraindications
  - Absolute
  - Relative
- Surgical Evaluation of the Potential Transplant Recipient
  - Major Concerns
    - Vascular
    - Urologic
    - Body Habitus
  - Clinical Evaluation
  - Clinical Examples
- KAS Tidbits

# Myth: Transplant is for everyone!

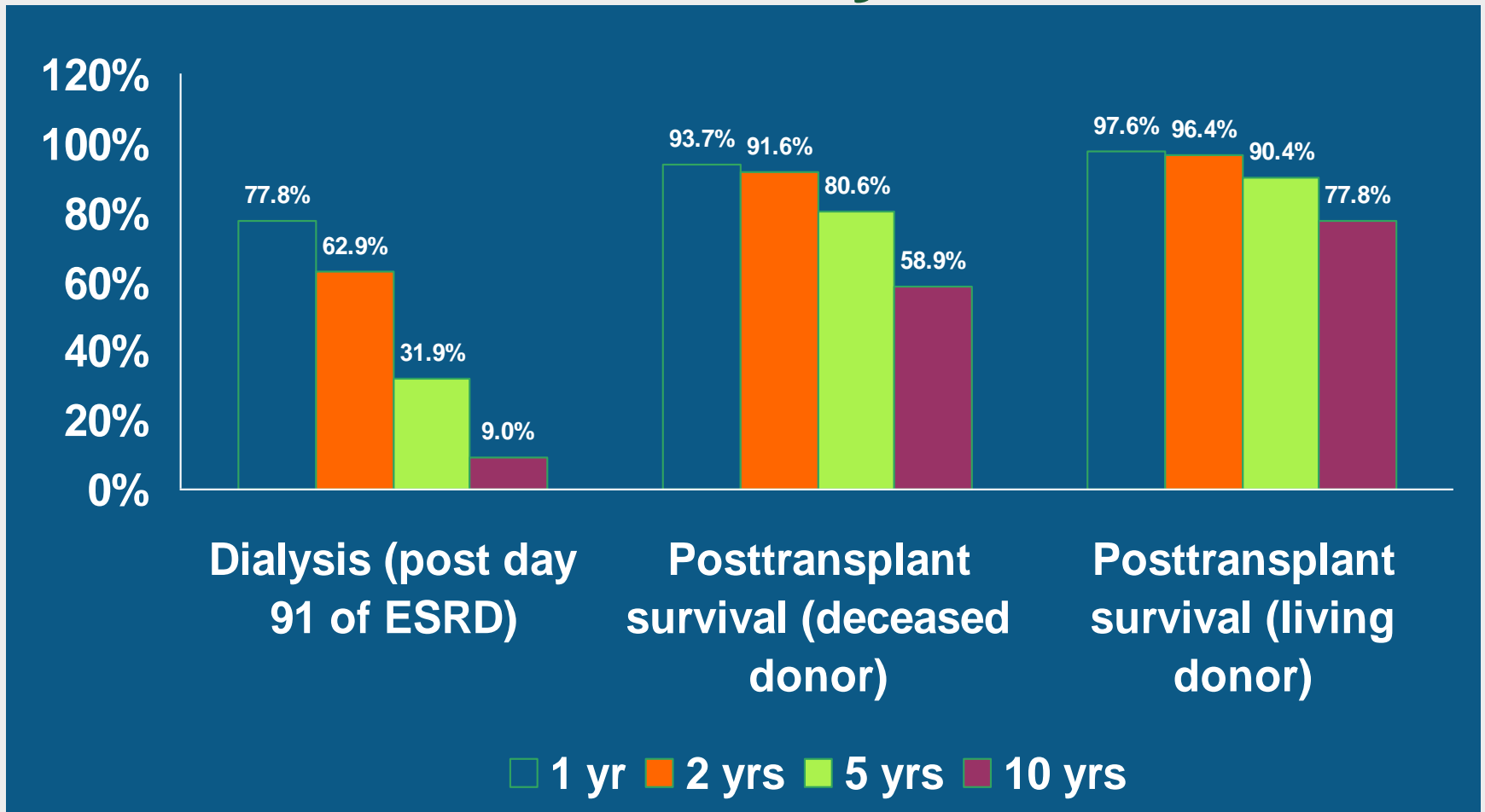
Fact: Kidney tx is NOT considered a cure for kidney disease and may not be the best option for everyone.

Fact: Hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis and transplantation are all valid methods of renal replacement therapy.

Personal or medical factors determine the best option for each patient.

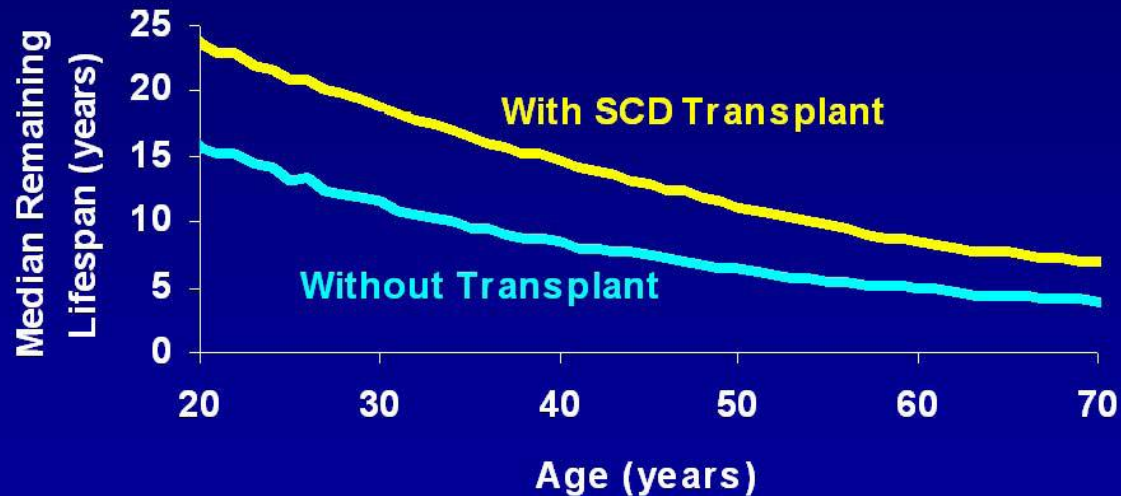


# ESRD Survival by Treatment Modality



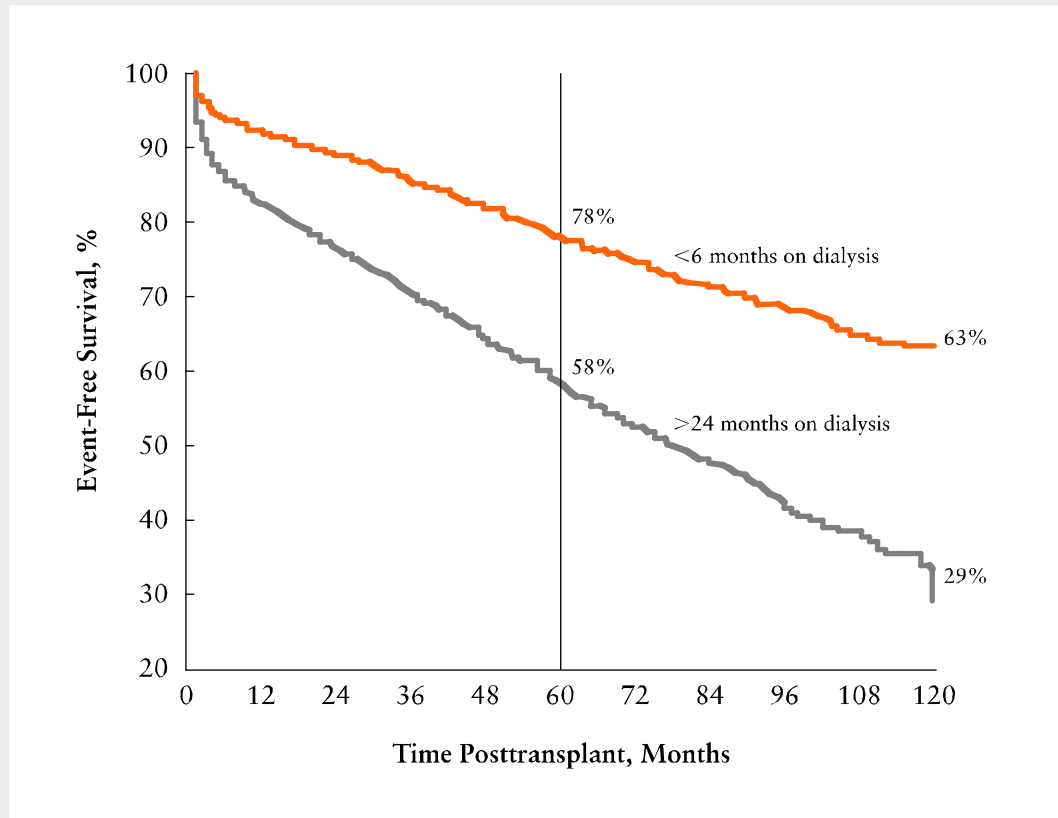
# Transplant vs Hemodialysis

## Median Survival by Age



Median lifespans with average SCD kidney and without any transplant are based on average of median survival estimated for candidates active on the waitlist on 1/1/2004.

# Graft Survival in 2405 Paired-Kidney Transplants: Short vs Long ESRD Time



Adapted with permission from Meier-Kriesche HU, et al. *Transplantation*. 2002;74:1377-1381.

Adapted with permission from Meier-Kriesche HU, et al. *Transplantation*. 2002;74:1377-1381.

# Contraindications

## Absolute

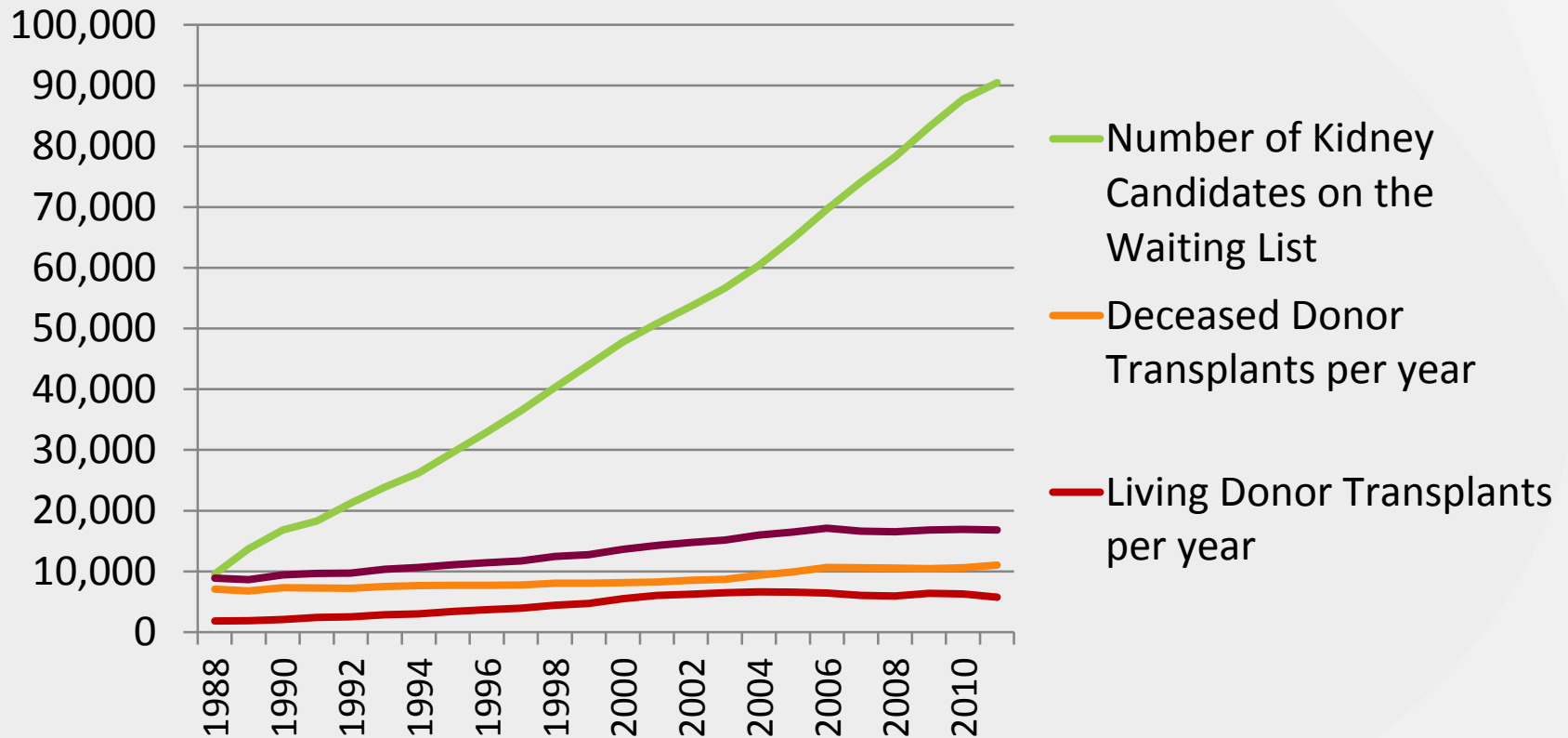
- Active Cancer
- Irreversible Failure
  - Heart
  - Pulmonary
  - Hepatic
- Active Systemic Dz
  - Lupus, Sickle Cell
- Active Infection

## Relative

- Treated Cancer
  - Grade, Stage, Site
- HCV, HIV, HBV
  - HOPE Act
- Morbid Obesity
- PVD
- Treatable CVD
- Unresolved Psychosocial Issues
  - Noncompliance
- Smoking

# The Growing Waiting List

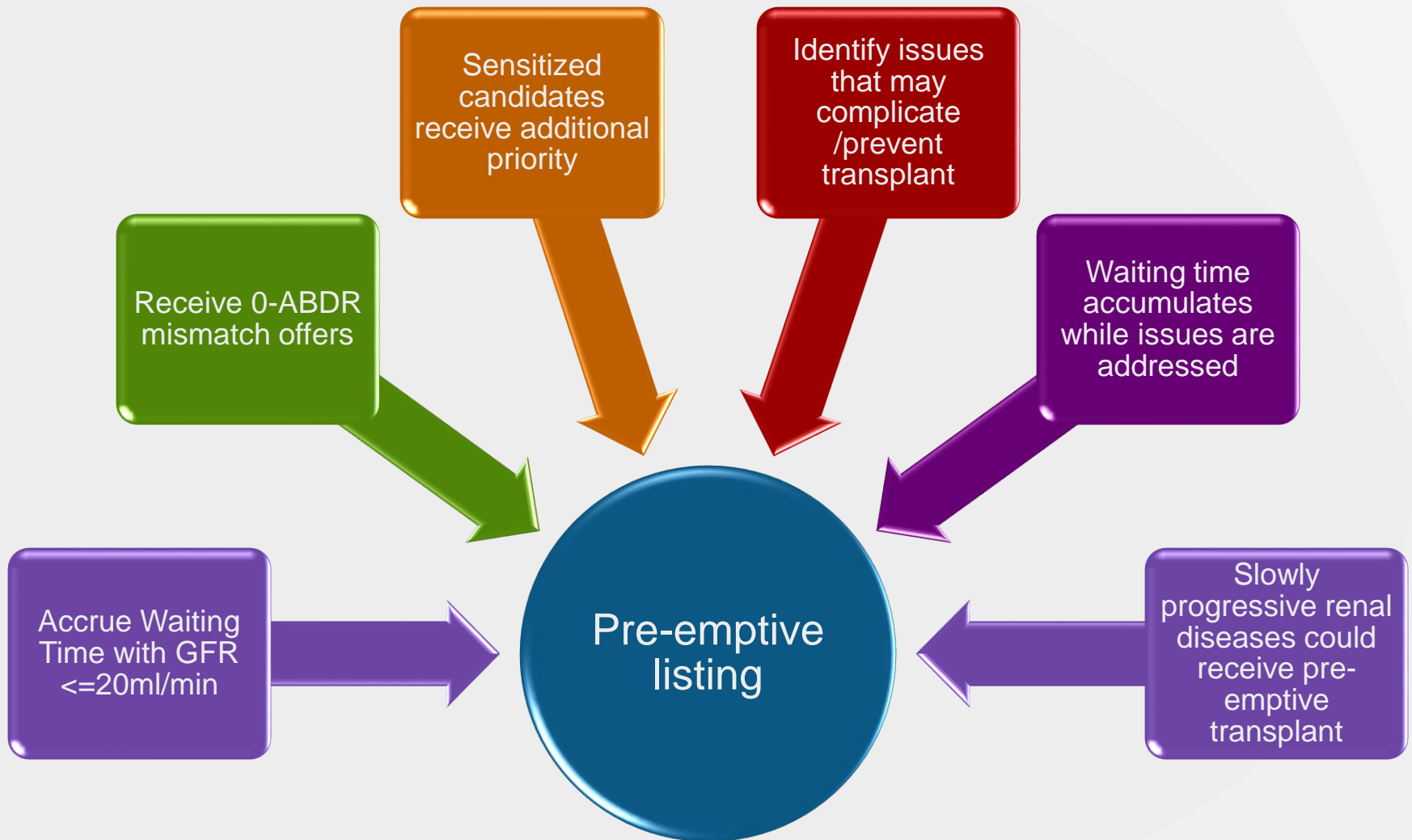
## Kidney Waiting List and Transplants



*OPTN data as of September 1, 2012*

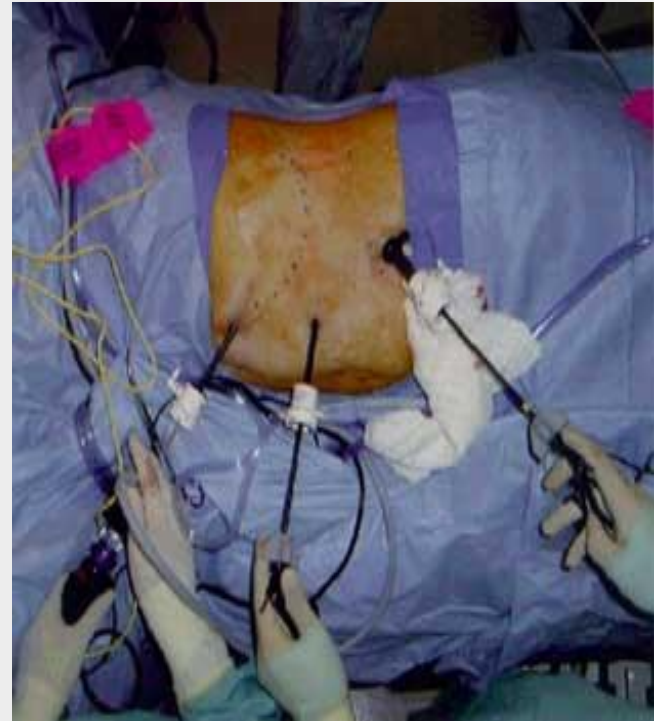


# Importance of early referral



# Living Kidney Donation

- Best option for recipient
  - Enhanced survival relative to deceased donors
  - Eliminates issues of brain death, shock, trauma that activate innate immune response
  - Timed transplant when recipient health maximized
  - Immediate function routine

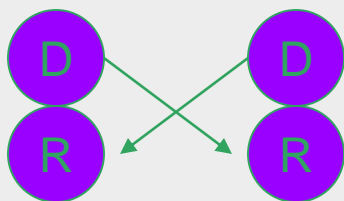


**Direct vs Paired donation!**

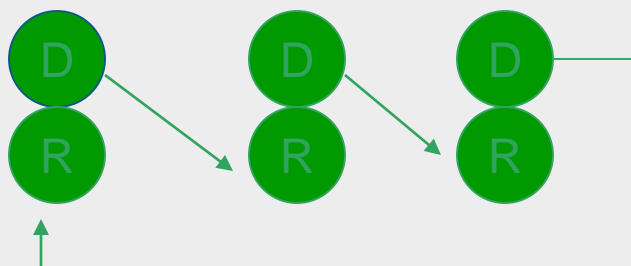
# Paired Donation

## Traditional Paired Exchange

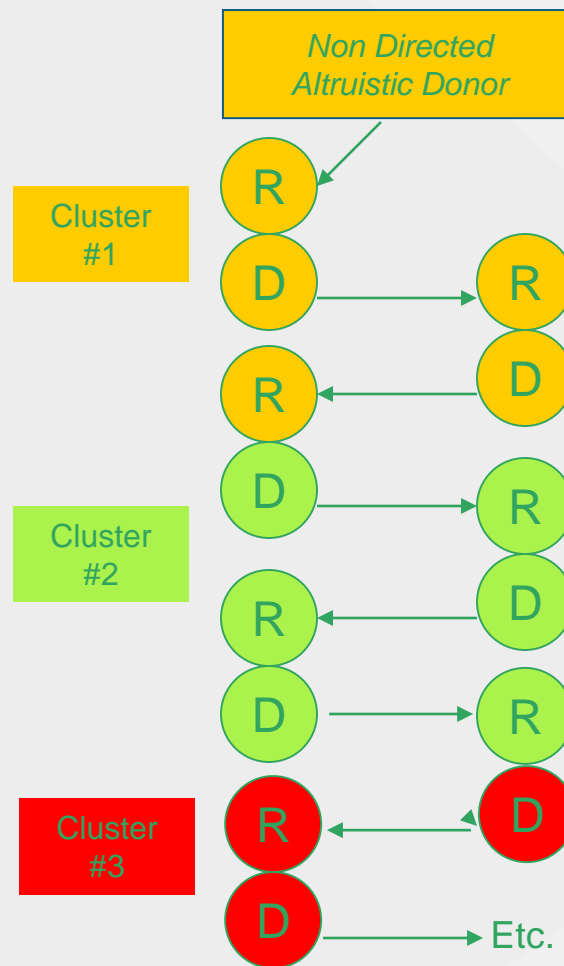
*Two Pair Exchange*



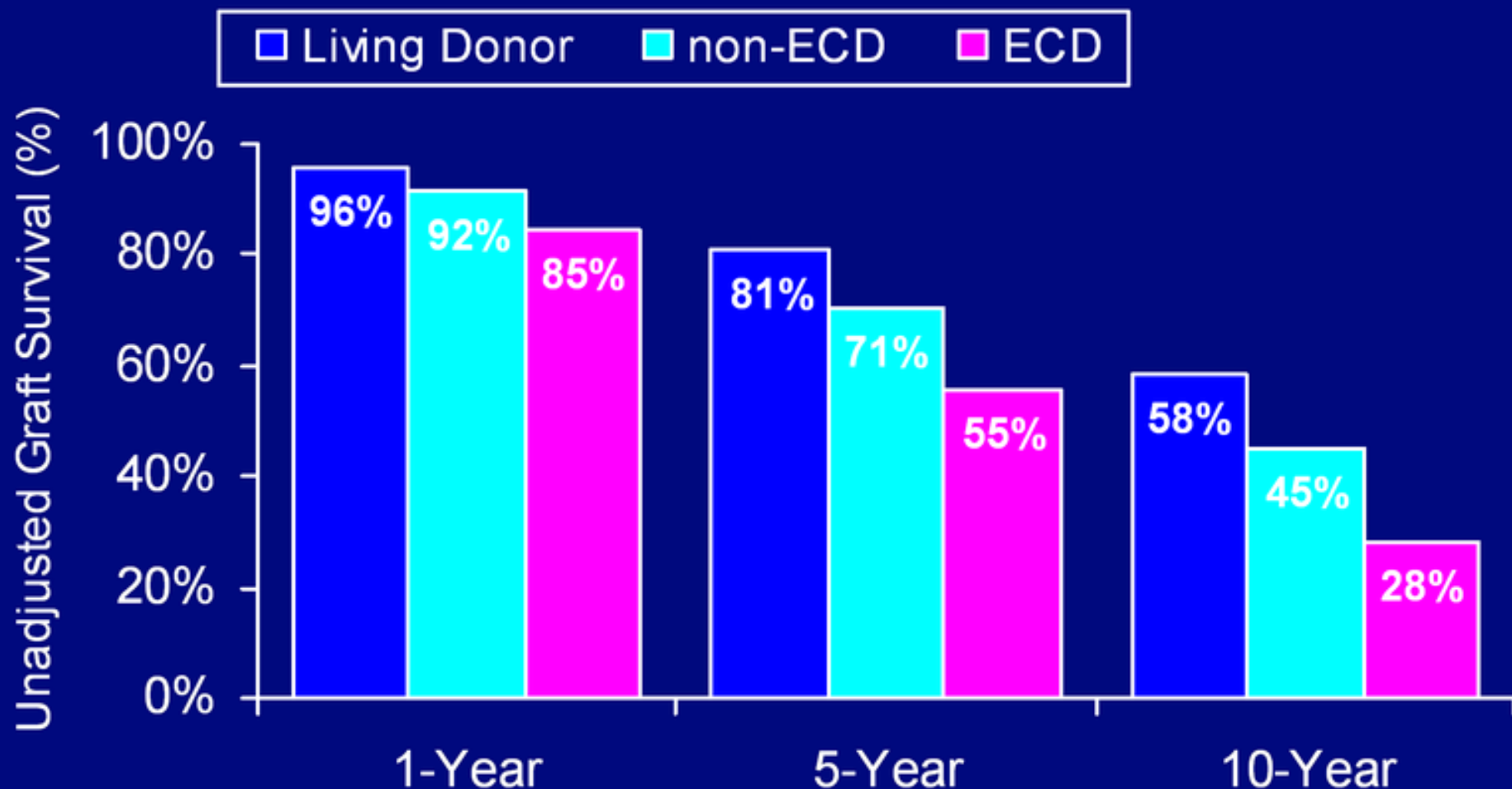
*Three Pair Exchange*



## Chains

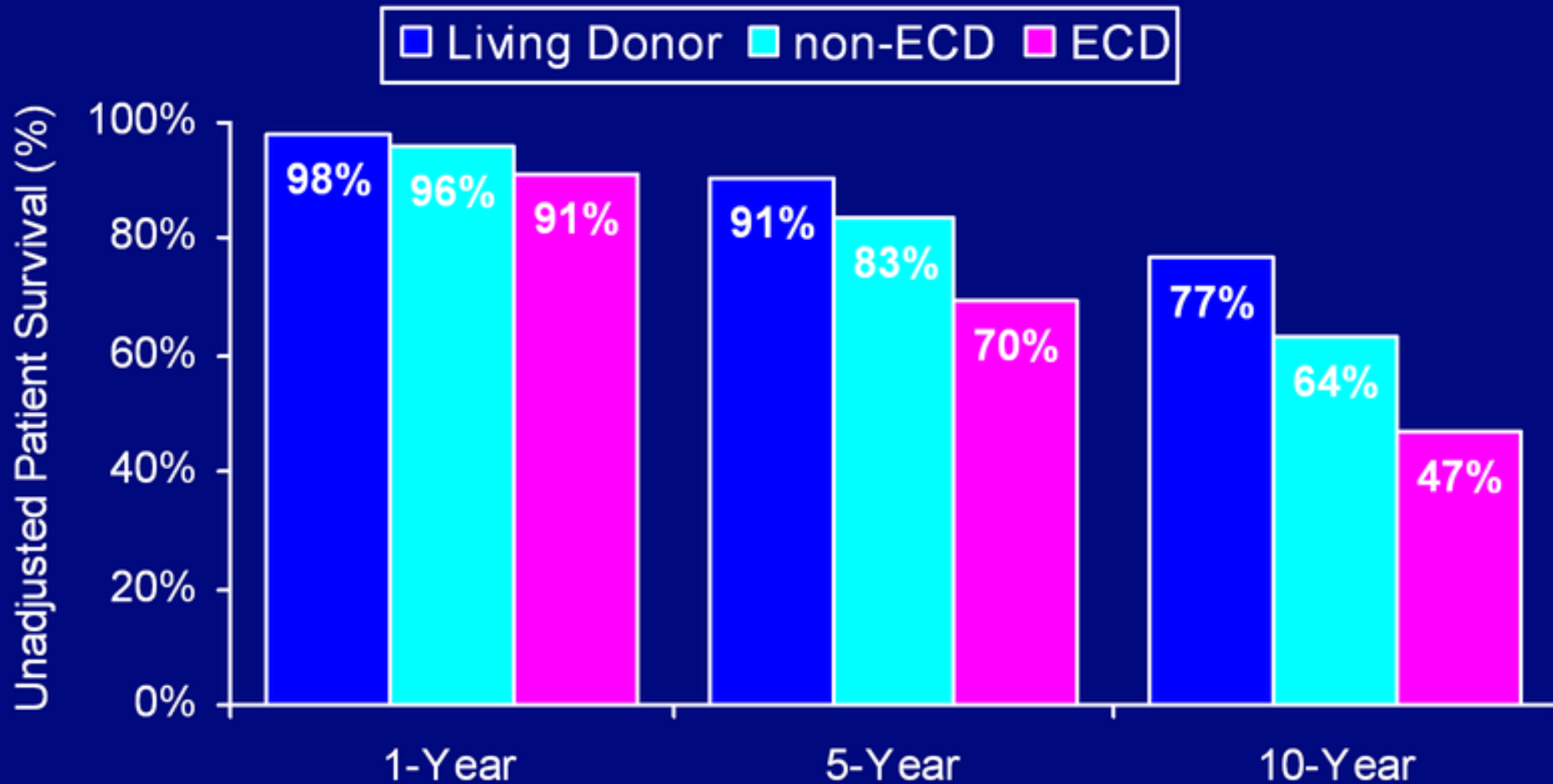


**Figure III-7. Unadjusted 1-Year (2005-2006), 5-Year (2001-2006), and 10-Year (1996-2006) Kidney Graft Survival\*, by Donor Type**



\*Death is included as an event.

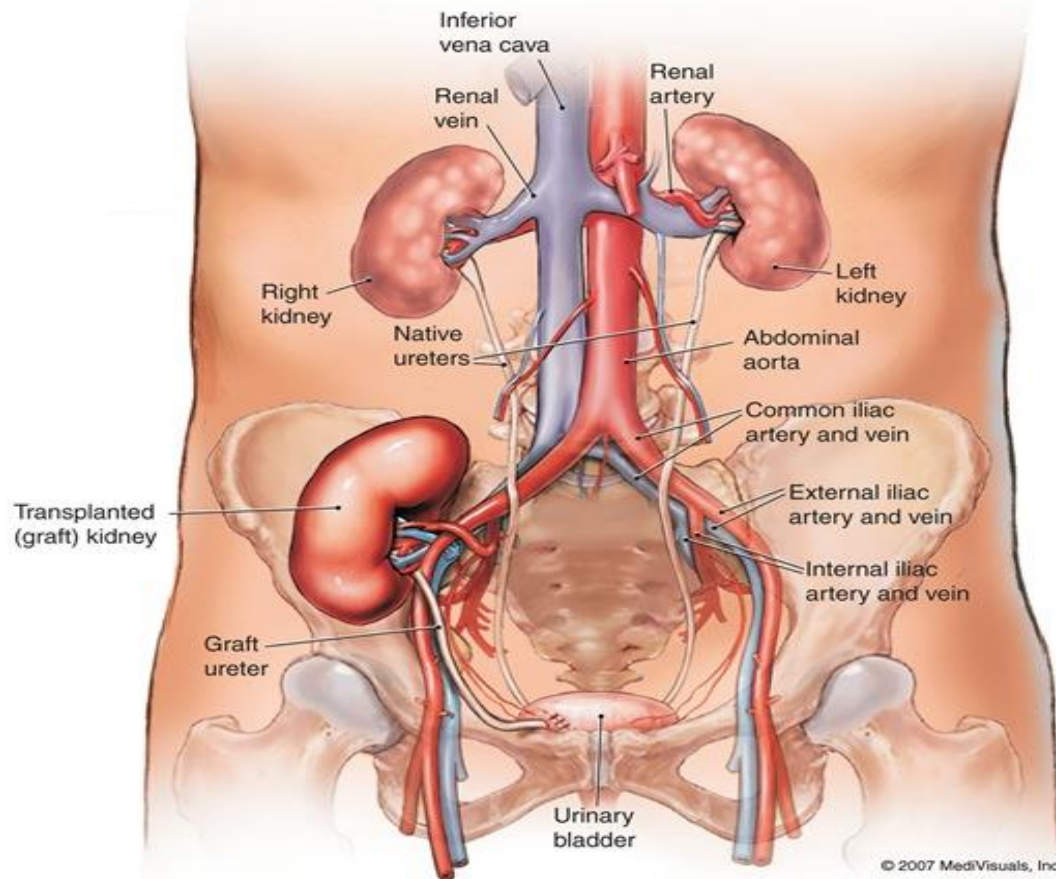
**Figure III-6. Unadjusted 1-Year (2005-2006), 5-Year (2001-2006), and 10-Year (1996-2006) Kidney Recipient Survival, by Donor Type**



# Surgical Assessment of Potential Kidney Transplant Recipient

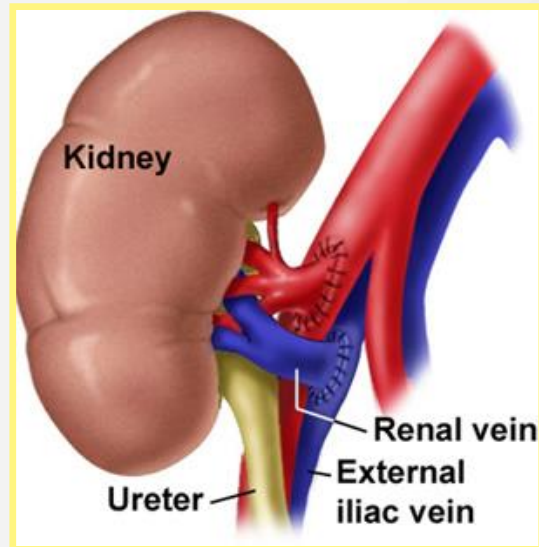
# Kidney Transplant Standard Surgical Approach

**A Grafted (Transplanted) Kidney**



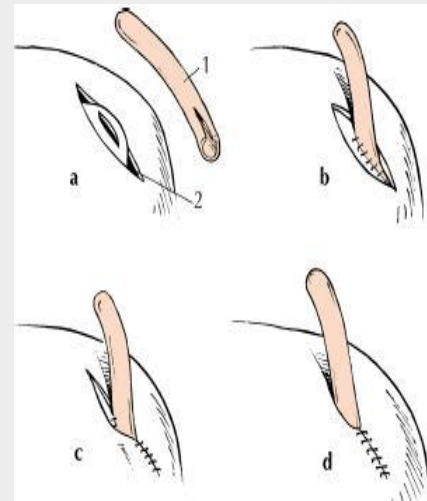


# Kidney Transplant Standard Surgical Approach



## Vascular anastomoses

1. Anterior abdominal approach, yet extraperitoneal.
2. External iliac vessels
3. Vein first, then artery.



1. GU irrigant instilled per Foley catheter to 150-200 mls and Foley tubing clamped leaving bladder distended
2. Vessels done first, then ureter.
3. Spatulated ureter sewn to dome of bladder +/- ureteral double-J stent.
4. Tunnel closure approximates antireflux mechanism.

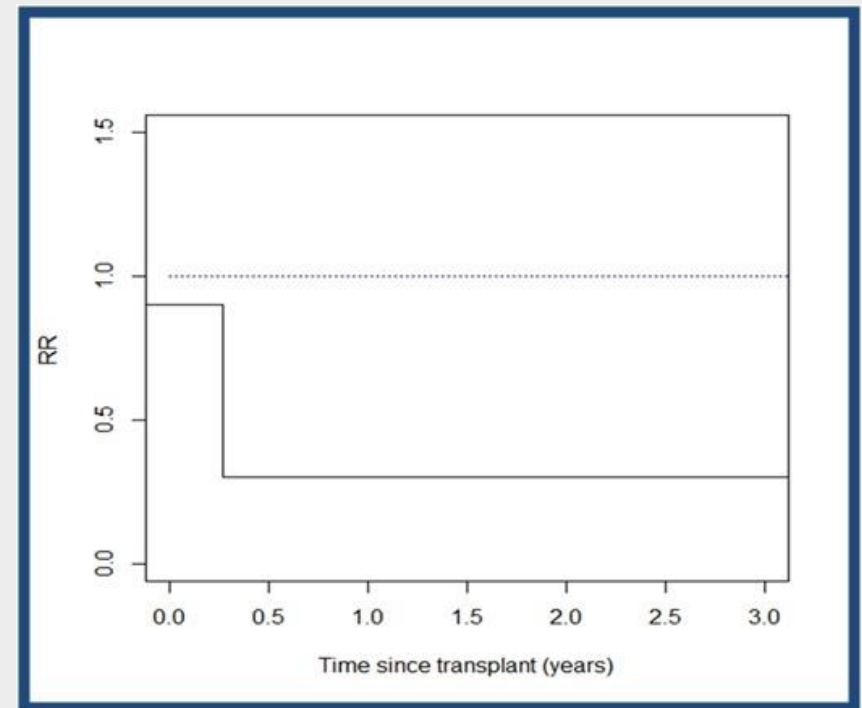


# Vascular

- Risk factors in our patients
  - ESRD, HTN, DM, lipids, +/- smoking
- Silent disease – “asymptomatic” but relative to level of activity
- Anastomotic site vs proximal disease (or both)
  - Risk for future intervention
    - Abdominal aortic aneurysm

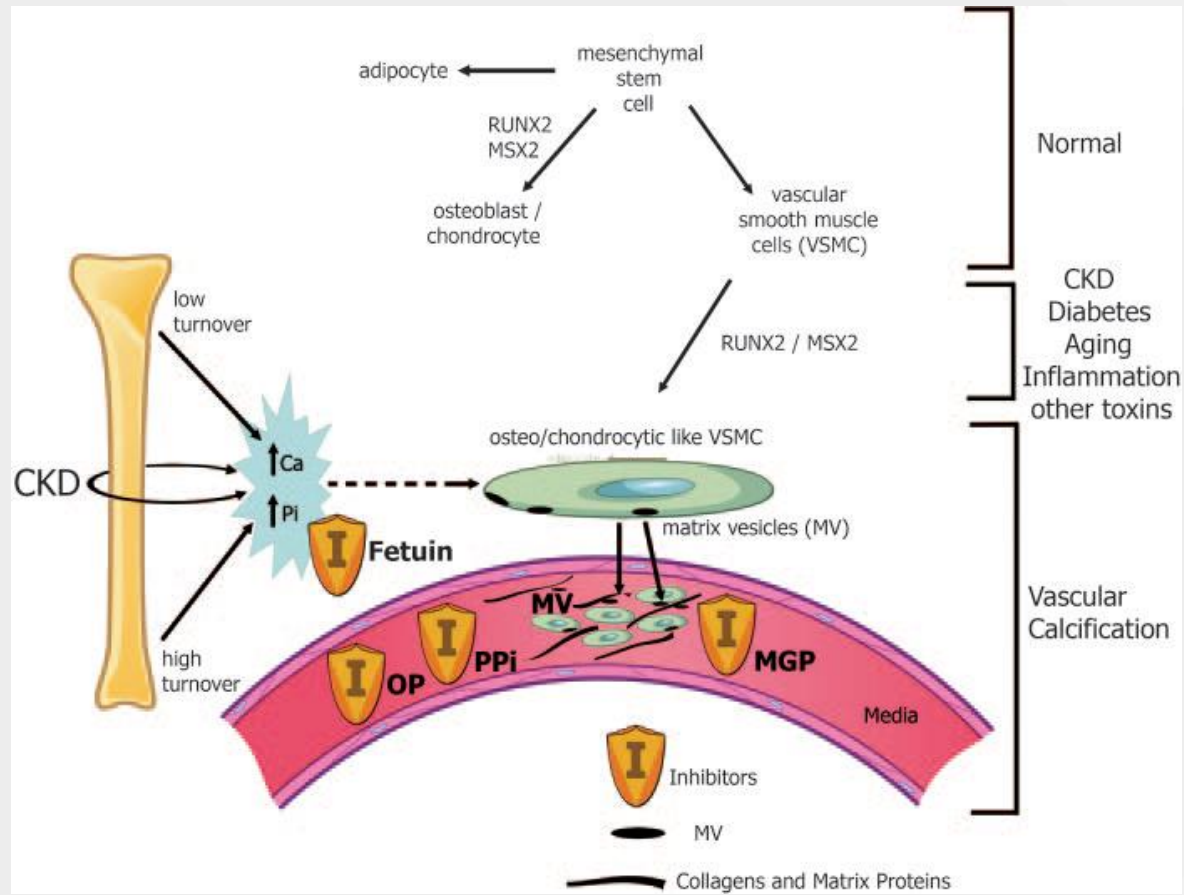
# Transplant and Vascular Disease

- USRDS database
  - 23,699 met criteria
    - 22.86 on dialysis
    - 4.98 wait-listed
    - 4.86 for KTX
- Survival advantage with living donor transplant
- No survival advantage at any point with deceased donor



Brar A, et al. AJT (abstract) 2015;15(supple 3)

# Not Just a Bone Problem



# Genitourinary

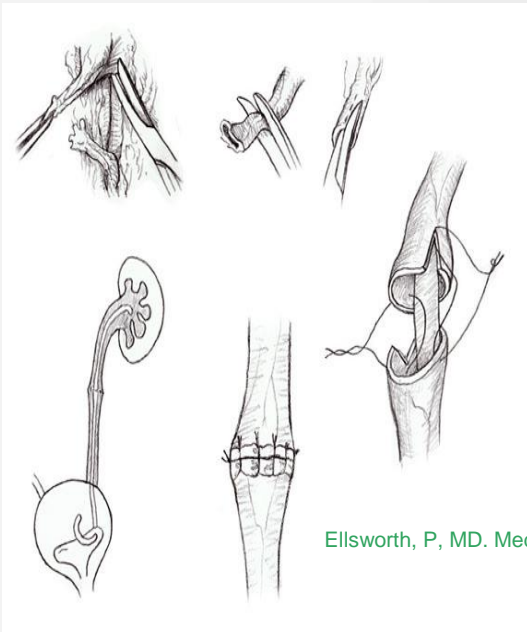
- Longevity of oliguria/anuria
- Cytoxan use and risk of cancer
- Bladder assessment
  - Unrecognized Bladder Outlet Obstruction
  - TUR cannot be done in setting of anuria
  - Possible protocol – start with assessment while still voiding
    - Stage IV-V
- Pretransplant nephrectomy
  - Limited indication at this time

# Alternative Plumbing

## Reasons for alternate drainage

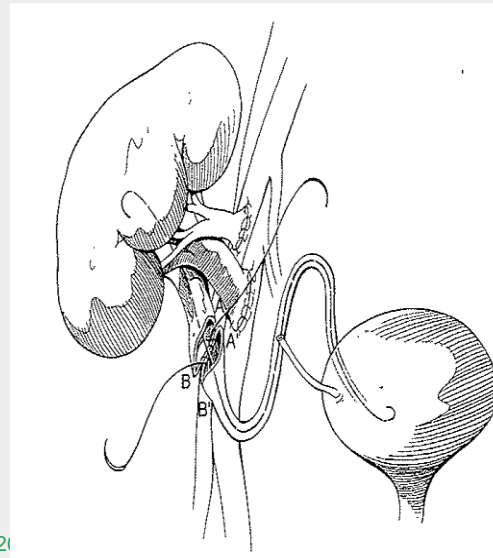
1. Some surgeons use as primary method
2. Short transplant ureter
3. Small bladder following years of anuria - unable to distend
4. Repair of urine leak with ureteral necrosis

### Uretero-ureterostomy

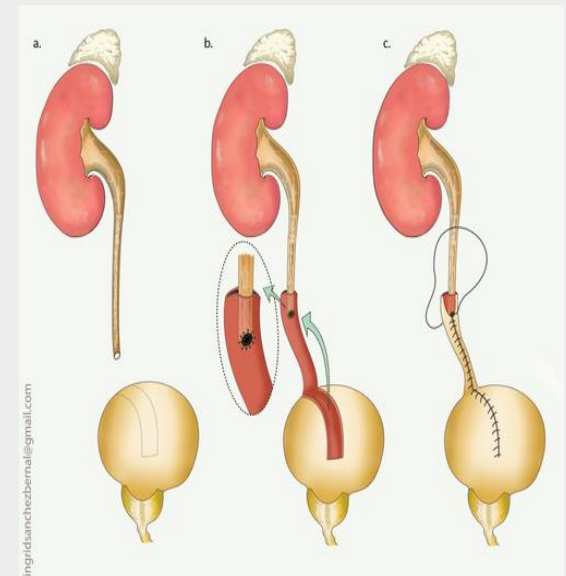


Ellsworth, P, MD. Medscape, 2010

### Uretero-pyelostomy



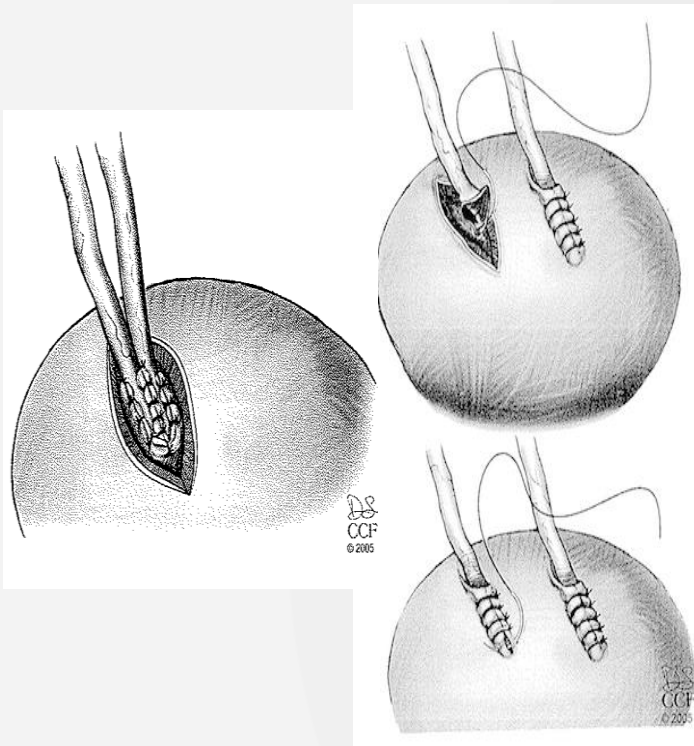
### Boari Flap/Psoas Hitch



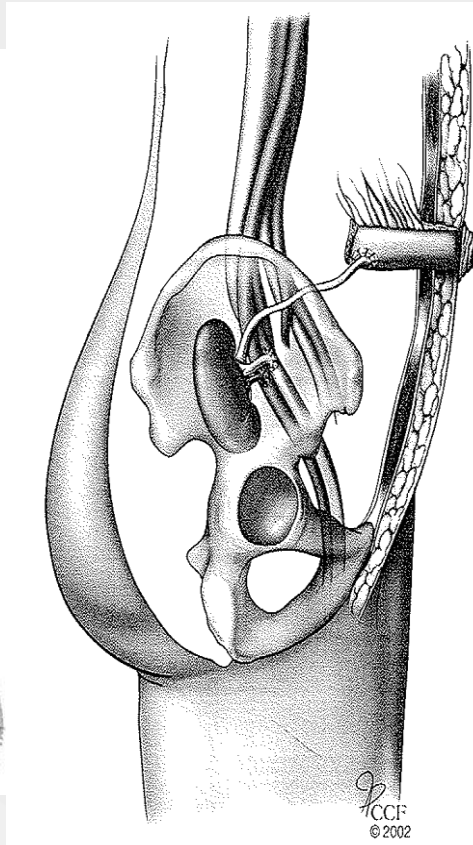
Pereria B etal, SJTREM, 2010

# Alternative Plumbing

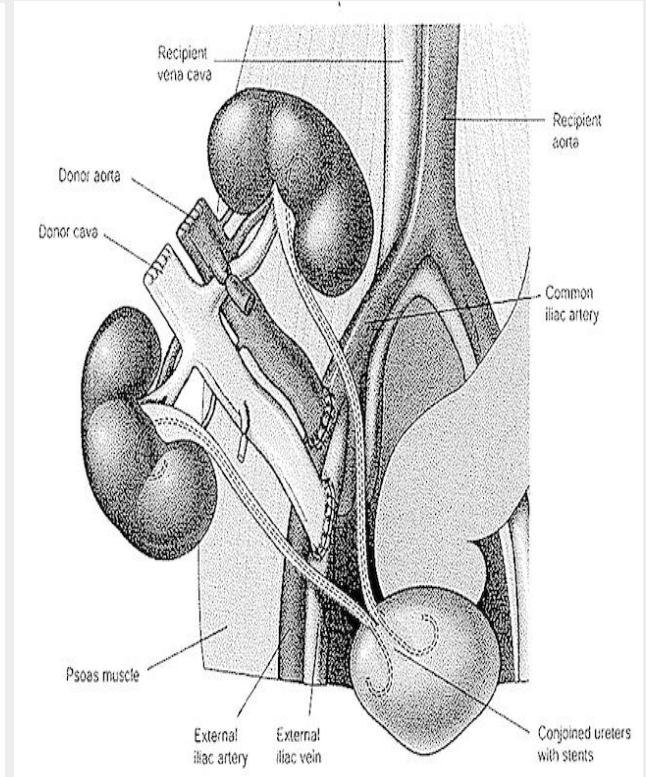
Double ureter approaches



Ileal loop  
(aka ileal conduit)



Pediatric en bloc transplantation



# “Blue Plate Special”

- Pre transplant operative package in the days of limited immunosuppression
  - Bilateral Nephrectomy
  - Splenectomy
  - Appendectomy



# Pre-transplant Native Nephrectomy

- Symptomatic Polycystic Kidney Disease
  - Hemorrhage, pain, infected cysts
  - Anephric state – hypotension due to reduced renin
- Infectious etiology
  - Usually pediatrics – reflux, obstruction
- Prior obstruction and instrumentation
  - Colonized obstructed system
- Renal Masses – ACDD
  - Leave long ureter for potential use with transplant, unless limited by diagnosis



# Body Habitus

- BMI standard is relatively high for area programs
  - Evaluation 41
  - Active listing 38
- Pannus transplantable or not
- Increases risk of surgical complication
  - Wound
  - Anastomosis time
- Obesity related metabolic, renal and liver disease
- Pre-transplant bariatric surgery

# Prior Transplant Patients

- Transplant in place or explanted
- “Just move to the other side”
  - ?third transplant
    - Intraperitoneal or remove one kidney
  - Vascular disease worse on non-transplant side

# Evaluation

- Clinical history
  - Smoking changes everything
  - Prior vascular surgery, amputation
- Clinical exam
  - Bruits, absent distal pulses, skin changes
- Abdominopelvic CT scan – noncontrast
  - Assess vascular disease
  - Assess native kidneys
  - Incidental findings
- Abdominal Ultrasound for younger patients

# Abdominopelvic CT

## Peripheral Vascular Disease



Aortoiliac disease s/p aortobifemoral  
graft  
Kidney transplant



# Native Kidneys

## Acquired Cystic Disease of Dialysis

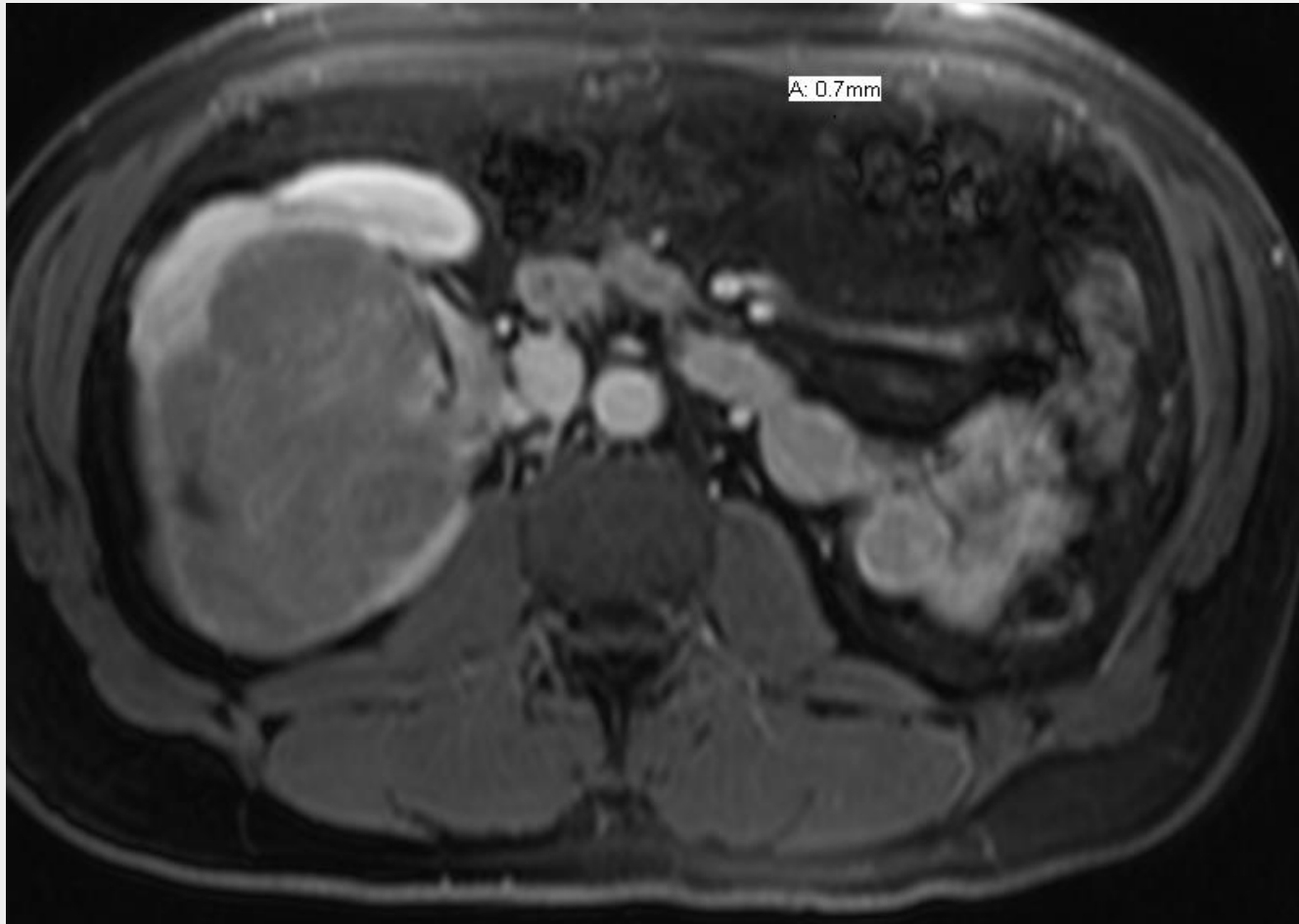
Without Contrast



With Contrast



# Renal Mass





# Aortic Abdominal Aneurysm

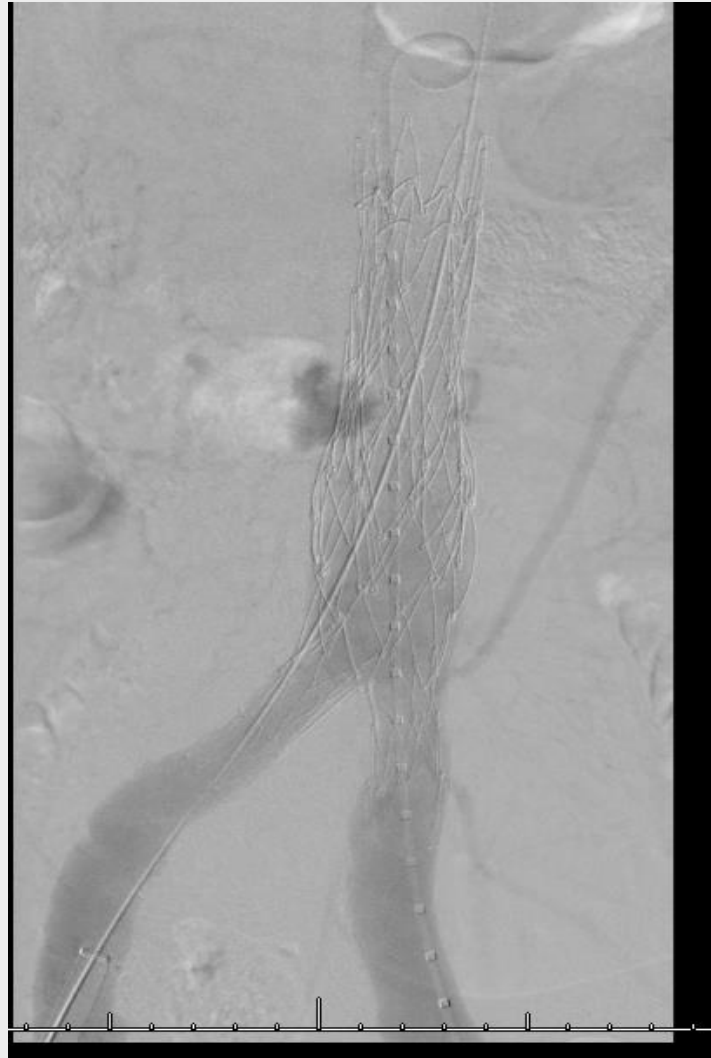




# Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Normal External Iliac Vessels



# Pre-transplant Repair Endograft



# Post-repair CT





# Post-cancer therapy waiting times

- Untreated or metastatic – no transplant
- Risk relative to dialysis death rate
- Israel Penn International Transplant Tumor Registry (IPPITR) – consultation service
- Renal Cell Carcinoma
  - Stage 1 (usually includes ACDD) – no wait
  - Stage 2 or > - 2-5 years
- Breast, Melanoma, Lung, Colon
  - Usually five year wait but again relative to stage
- Prostate Cancer
  - Low stage, local surgical control and PSA remains low – 2 years

# ESRD following Kidney Transplant

- Difficult transition from tx to ESRD
  - No need for ongoing immunosuppression
    - Usually antiproliferative then calcineurin then steroids
  - Steroids are long term taper
  - Most kidneys burn-out with chronic changes
    - History of past rejection is risk factor
- “old-school” rejection
  - Early – Erythropoietin resistance from inflammation
  - Acute rejection
    - Abdominal pain, tenderness and enlargement of kidney graft
    - Fever, worsening hypertension
    - Gross hematuria from fractured kidney



# Allograft Nephrectomy



- Pretreatment with short course immunosuppression
  - Solumedrol and tacrolimus
- Subcapsular nephrectomy
  - Donor blood vessels and capsule remain
- Bladder irrigation
  - Remove clot
  - Irrigate with Gentamycin
- Post-op need more frequent assessment of PRA – q2weeks time three

# Kidney Allocation System (KAS)



# Policy Objectives

- Make the most of every donated kidney without diminishing access
- Promote graft survival for those at highest risk of re-transplant
- Minimize loss of potential graft function through better longevity matching
- Improve efficiency and utilization by providing better information about kidney offers

# Major allocation components

Replace SCD/ECD with KDPI	Incorporate $A_2/A_2B$ to B
Add longevity matching	Base pediatric priority on KDPI (presently based on donor < 35)
Increase priority for sensitized candidates/CPRA sliding scale	Remove payback system
Include pre-registration dialysis time	Remove variances

# Revised waiting time calculation

## Old

Waiting time begins at/after registration with GFR  $\leq 20$  ml/min **OR** On Dialysis

## New

Waiting time points awarded for dialysis prior to registration (pediatric and adults)

- Recognizes time spent with ESRD as basis for priority

## Reminder

Waiting time points based on GFR remains the same

# Sensitized candidates

**Old**

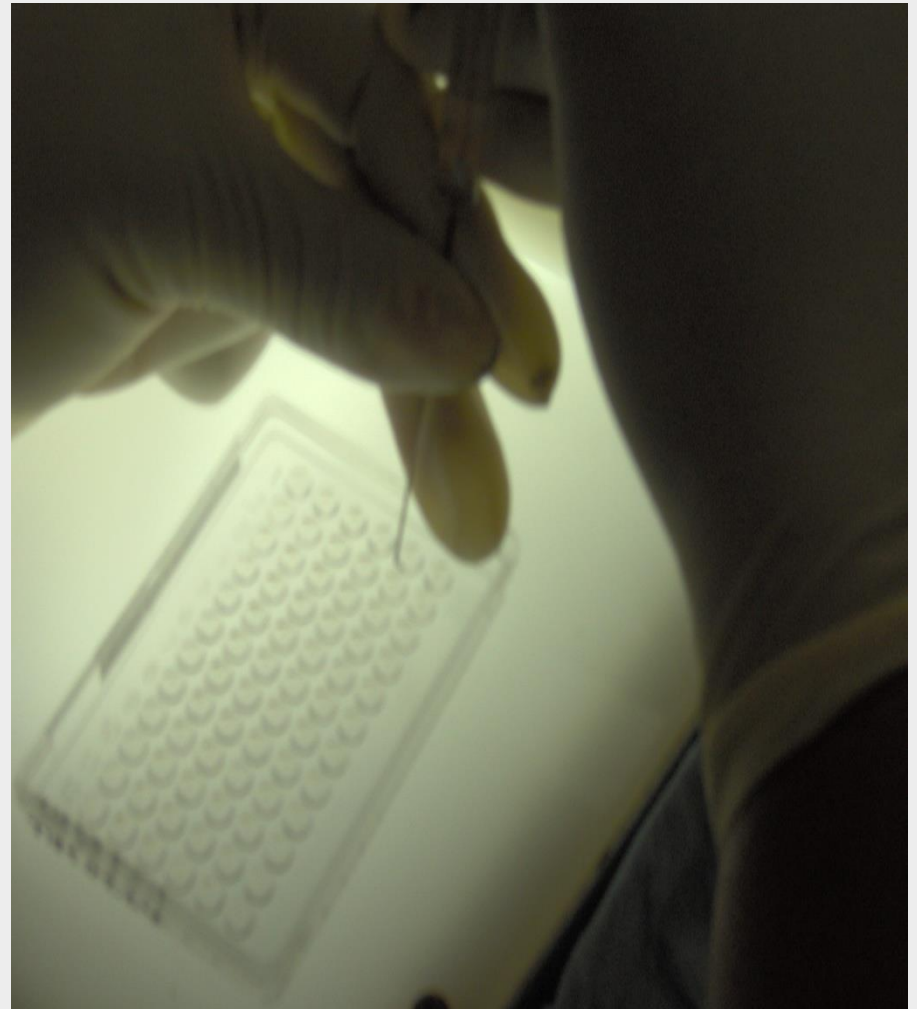
CPRA  $\geq 80\%$  receive 4 additional points and zero points for moderately sensitized candidates

**New**

Points assigned based on a sliding scale starting at CPRA  $\geq 20\%$

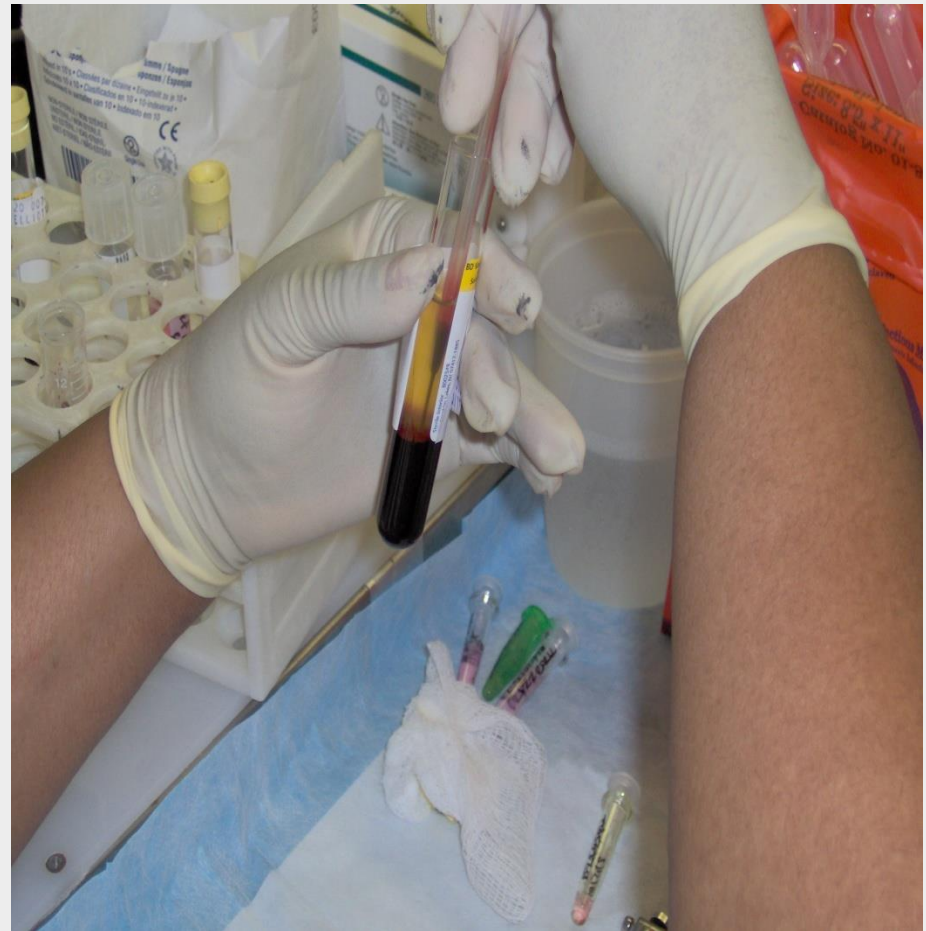
# Tissue Typing: Who am I?

- Cytotoxic Assay
  - Known antibody mixed with unknown cells (recipient)
  - Identifies 6 HLA antigen sites
  - Class I: 2A, 2B
  - Class II: 2 DR

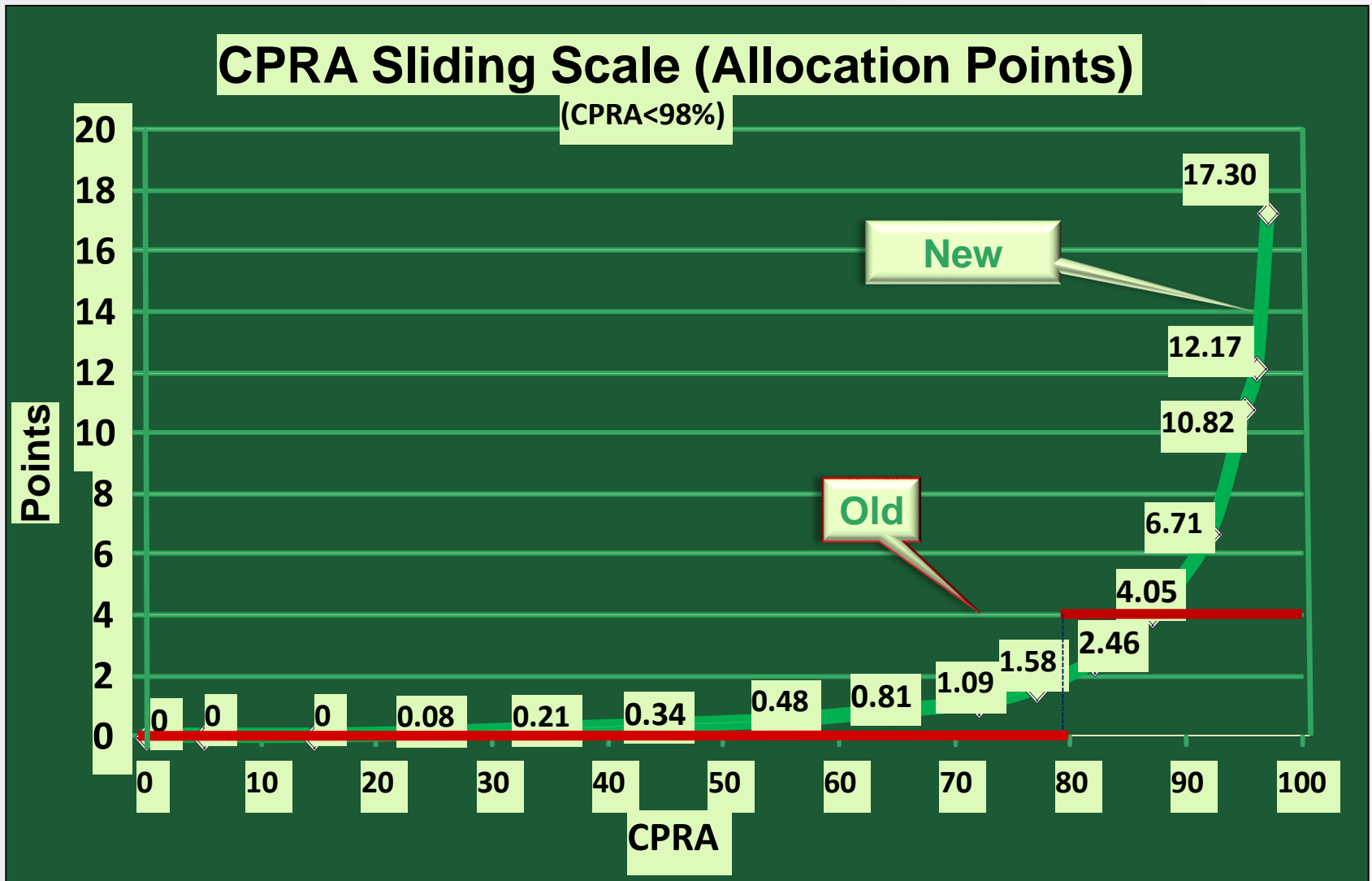


# Panel Reactive Antibodies: What's my immune history?

- Drawn monthly
- 0 % good!
- What factors have you been exposed to?
- How does this happen?
  - Prior transplants.
  - Pregnancies.
  - Blood product transfusions.



# Point changes: Sensitization



# Classifications:

## *Very Highly Sensitized*

- Candidates with CPRA  $\geq 98\%$  face immense biological barriers
- Old policy only prioritized sensitized candidates at the local level.

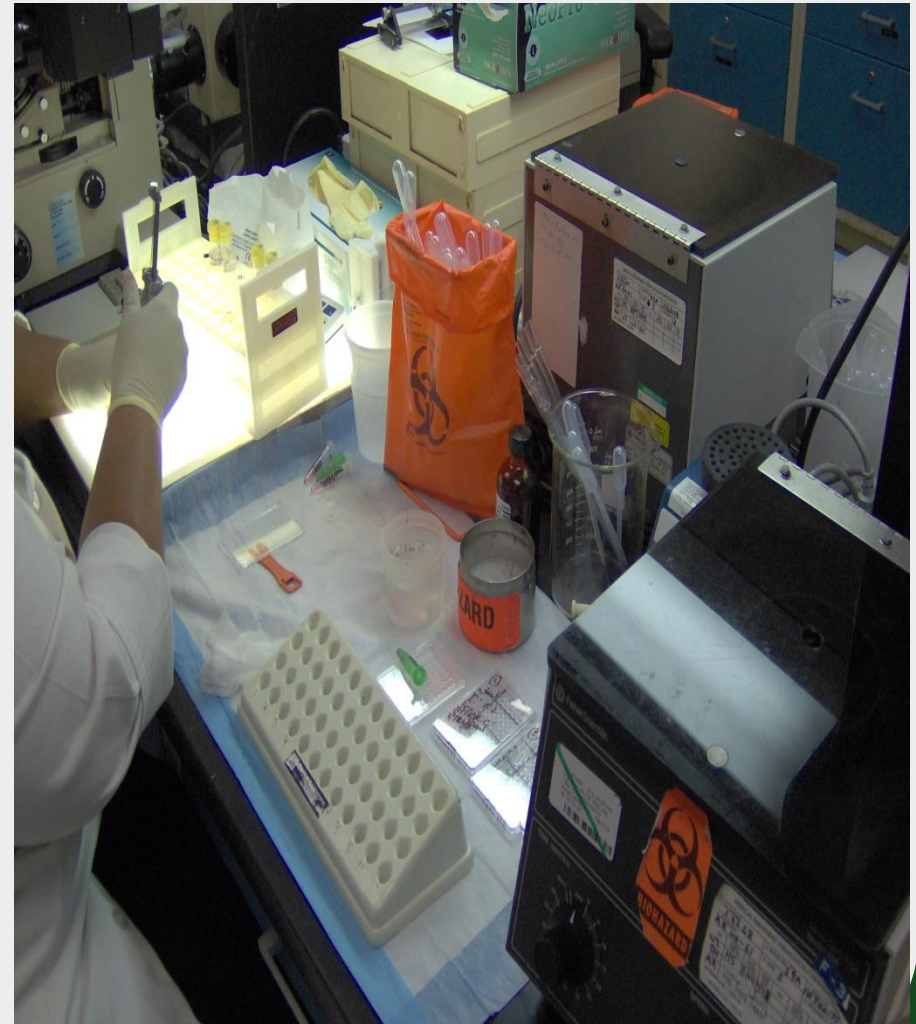
CPRA=100%	National
CPRA=99%	Regional
CPRA=98%	Local

- To participate in Regional/National sharing, review & approval of unacceptable antigens will be required



# Crossmatching

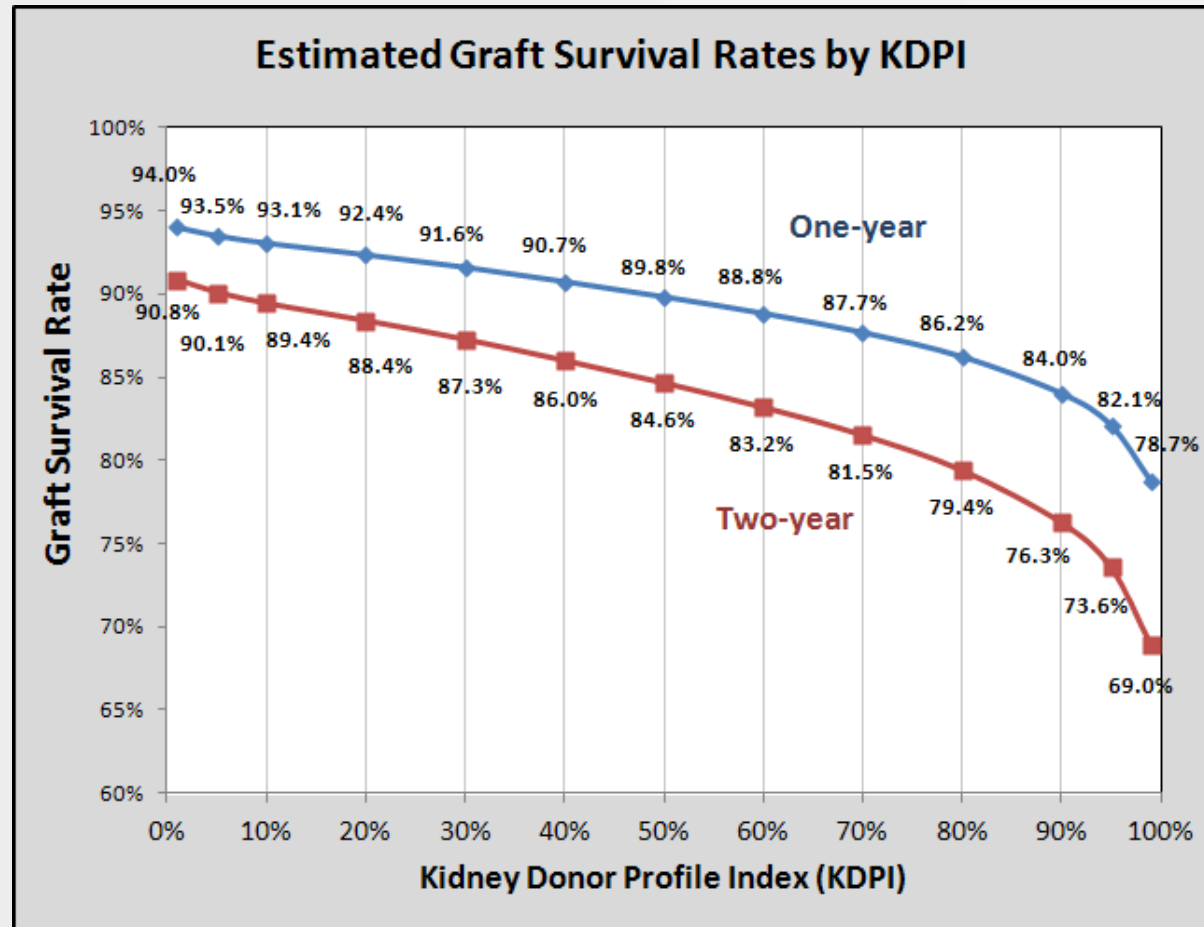
- “Is this donor safe for me?”
- Unknown serum (recipient) mixed with unknown cells (donor), for both T and B cells.
- Positive bad!



# Kidney Donor Profile Index (KDPI)

## KDPI Variables

- Donor age
- Height
- Weight
- Ethnicity
- History of Hypertension
- History of Diabetes
- Cause of Death
- Serum Creatinine
- HCV Status
- DCD Status



# *Longevity Matching*

- Estimated Post-Transplant Survival
  - Candidate age, time on dialysis, prior organ transplant, diabetes status
- Top 20% of candidates by EPTS to receive kidneys matched on longevity
- Applies only to kidneys with KDPI scores  $\leq 20\%$  not allocated for multi-organ, very highly sensitized, or pediatric candidates

## *Local + Regional for High KDPI Kidneys*

- KDPI >85% kidneys are allocated to a combined local and regional list
- Promotes broader sharing of kidneys at higher risk of discard
- DSAs with longer waiting times are more likely to utilize these kidneys than DSAs with shorter waiting times

## *B Candidates receiving A<sub>2</sub>/A<sub>2</sub>B Kidneys*

- Candidates with blood type B who meet defined clinical criteria are eligible to accept kidneys from donors with blood type A<sub>2</sub> or A<sub>2</sub>B
- Reported anti-A titer values required on regular schedule
- No titer values of greater than or equal to 1:8 allowed for candidate participation

**Let's not forget ABO!**

# Background

§ KAS implemented Dec 4, 2014

§ Key goals:

§ Make better use of available kidneys

§ Increase transplant opportunities for difficult-to-match patients (increased equity)

§ Increase fairness by awarding waiting time points based on dialysis start date

§ Have minimal impact on most candidates

# Summary: First Year of KAS

- Overall – KAS is meeting key goals
  - Decrease in longevity mismatches
  - Increase in the number of transplants among very highly sensitized patients
  - Increase in access to transplant for African Americans candidates
- “Bolus effects”: the percent of transplants to CPRA 99-100% and dialysis >10 years recipients are both tapering post-KAS
- Increase in A2/A2B  $\square$  B transplants, but still room for growth
- Transplant volume up 4.6%

## Summary: First Year of KAS (cont'd)

- No change in waiting list mortality rates
- Six-month graft and patient survival rates similar to pre-KAS
- Several trends deserve further attention:
  - Fewer OMM transplants
  - Slight drop in pediatric transplants will continue to be tracked closely
  - Logistical challenges in allocation
  - Increased CIT and DGF
  - Increase in discard rates, particularly KDPI>85% kidneys.



Questions?