

Our goal is to provide excellent service and to decrease the waiting time for our patients by promoting living donor transplantation.

The Kidney and Pancreas Division at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital has ranked in the top 5% over the last 10 years for graft and patient survival as well as the volume of transplants done.

When I heard my friend needed someone to donate a kidney I said “where do I sign up?” Nothing could be more important than saving a life. It really wasn’t a big deal - the tests, operation, hospital stay. It’s the best thing I’ve ever done. **Donor**

Dialysis made my life miserable. I was always tired. I didn’t know how long I could go on like that. Since my transplant, I feel great. I have a normal life again. I’m so grateful to my friend for donating. He gave me my life back. **Recipient**



Contact Information

Recipients need to contact their pre-transplant coordinator with the name and numbers of potential donors after discussing the information in this pamphlet with them.

For further information, please contact
The Living Donor Office
305-355-5230

www.miamitransplant.com

LIVING DONOR PROGRAM

University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital



The gift
of **LIFE**
is the most **PRECIOUS**
GIFT *of all*



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of living donation?

To give the gift of life and provide improvement in quality of life. A successful transplant will end or eliminate the need for the recipient's dependence on dialysis and help them and their family return to a normal lifestyle.

Who can be a donor?

- Any healthy person between the ages of 18-65
- Must be mentally and emotionally capable
- Appropriate blood type

What are the advantages of a live kidney donor transplant versus deceased donor?

- Decrease in the current average wait time of two and a half to three years
- The kidney will work longer
- Recipient may be able to avoid dialysis (better outcome)
- The transplant can be scheduled to the convenience of the recipient and donor
- Live kidney donation can be rewarding for both donors and recipients

How will kidney donation affect me?

After donating one kidney, the other kidney will grow and compensate allowing the donor to lead a full active life.

What is involved in the donor process?

- Phase I: Medical screening and tissue typing. This can be done by phone or in person. Results take one week and up to three donors can be tested at one time. The best donor will be chosen to continue to phase II.
- Phase II: Medical, diagnostic, and psychological evaluation
- Phase III: Scheduling of surgery and surgical evaluation
- Phase IV: Post-donation monitoring of labs and general well-being

Who pays for the donor testing, surgery, and post-op care?

It is covered by the Kidney Acquisition Fund and/or the recipient's insurance company. No charge will be made to the donor's insurance. Donors may also qualify for extra funding through the National Donor Assistance Program for travel, food, and housing.

What are the two types of donor surgery?

Laparoscopic (small incisions) or open

How long does the donor surgery take?

Average of three to four hours

How long does a donor stay in the hospital?

Two to three days

How long does the donor take to recover?

Average of two weeks; however no lifting/pushing more than 15 pounds for four to six weeks.

What is the donor follow-up after discharge from the hospital?

Labs and a physician visit two weeks after the surgery. Additional lab work six months, 12 months, and 24 months after the donation surgery to evaluate your kidney function.

Can donor information be shared with anyone including the recipient/family?

NO – all donor information is held private.

Can the donor decide at anytime not to proceed?

Yes; he/she will not be penalized as the final decision always lies with the donor. There is a confidential opt out policy in place

When should the recipient ask someone to consider donating?

As soon as the recipient begins the pre-transplant evaluation so the donor team can provide full support to any potential donor.