

The Transplant Process

The transplant process begins when your doctor refers you to OHSU for a medical evaluation. You will attend a half-day class led by a nurse coordinator in which you will learn all about the pre-transplant process and what to expect post-transplant. An OHSU kidney doctor will examine you and discuss transplantation with you. OHSU staff will then run a number of tests to ensure that you are a good candidate for a transplant. Once you are cleared for transplant, you will have more tests done to determine your body's sensitivity to foreign tissues, which is key to finding the right donated organ for you. If you are not receiving an organ from a living donor, you will be added to the deceased donor kidney waiting list.

The pre-transplant process can be a lengthy one and you will probably have a lot of work to do before being cleared for transplant. The OHSU staff will help guide you through the process to prepare you for transplant.

Types of Transplants

Success rates are highest for those patients who receive kidneys from living donors.

Deceased donor kidneys are obtained through the local and national procurement organizations. Currently, there are over 52,000 people on the national kidney waiting list, but only about 8,000 people receive kidney transplants from deceased donors each year. The average waiting times for OHSU patients are between 184 and 608 days depending on blood type and previous exposure to foreign human tissue.

The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) governs organ allocation. Transplant centers must follow its rules in assigning organs to persons on the waiting list. In Oregon, there is one shared list for all patients waiting for a deceased donor kidney transplant.

Post-Transplant Follow Up

Once you are transplanted, you will be on a number of immunosuppressive (anti-rejection) medications and will be followed closely by the OHSU transplant doctors and post-transplant nurse coordinators. After a few months you will be referred back to your primary care physician.

You are the most important member of your transplant team. After a transplant you will need to take your medications exactly as ordered, every single day. You will need to monitor your health daily and have blood tests and doctor visits on a regular basis. The first few months can be very busy, but things usually settle into a predictable routine; and you can enjoy a more full and normal lifestyle with a transplant than dialysis allows.

Contact The OHSU Transplant Team

(503) 494-2246

(800) 452-1369

<http://www.ohsu.edu/transplant>



Kidney Transplantation at OHSU



OHSU transplant picnic

Kidney Transplantation at OHSU

About the Program

Oregon Health & Science University surgeons performed the world's 18th kidney transplant in 1959. Since then, over 3,300 patients have received new kidneys at OHSU, and the transplant program is now one of the largest in the nation. Success rates for kidney transplants have dramatically increased since the 1960s, and OHSU is consistently ranked in the top 10% of hospitals nationally for both patient and kidney survival.

OHSU has an experienced team of professionals who work closely with patients throughout the transplant process. OHSU's kidney physicians and surgeons are all Board Certified in their specialty areas and have published hundreds of scientific and medical papers.

For the past 40 years, OHSU has been an active contributor to new transplant technologies in areas such as surgical techniques, organ retrieval and

preservation, donor and recipient matching, recipient preparation, immunosuppression regimens, and prevention and treatment of complications. Patients have benefited from early access to new technologies, research and innovation.

Other solid organ transplant programs at OHSU include the liver, heart, lung, pancreas, and kidney-pancreas.

Why Choose Transplantation?

For persons with kidney failure, transplantation can offer significant benefits, most importantly:

- Increased life expectancy
- Improved quality of life
- Freedom from dialysis
- Fewer fluid and dietary restrictions

The OHSU Transplant Team

OHSU's kidney transplant physicians and surgeons have over 100 years of combined experience in transplant surgery and patient care.



John Barry, M.D.

Dr. John Barry, Chairman of the Division of Urology and Surgical Director of Renal Transplantation, joined OHSU in 1973 and has performed more than 2,000 kidney transplants. He is an active researcher and educator in the field of transplant surgery.



Douglas Norman, M.D.

Dr. Douglas Norman, Director of Transplantation Medicine, has cared for over 2,000 kidney transplant patients since he joined the

staff of OHSU in 1979. He has had more than 150 publications printed in medical journals worldwide.

The 28 other members of the OHSU Kidney Transplant Team include experienced surgeons and kidney doctors, transplant nurse coordinators, pharmacists, dieticians, financial coordinators and social workers.



OHSU kidney recipients at the annual transplant picnic