

OUTCOMES IN RECIPIENTS AND DONORS OF COMMERCIAL KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION

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Introduction: We systematically reviewed outcomes in recipients of kidney transplants who buy kidneys outside their country of residence. We also studied the outcomes in the donors of this commercial transaction.

Methods: We searched the literature using the key phrase 'commercial or paid' and kidney transplantation. Data bases searched were MEDLINE, SUMSearch, CINAHL, InfoRetriever, TRIP, and World Wide Web.

Results: We found that there were only a limited number of studies in recipients (n =29) and even fewer studies in their donors (n =4). Average patient survival was 91%, 84, and 81% while average graft survival was 87%, 69%, and 62% at 1, 3 and 5 years respectively. Patient and graft survival was generally inferior to the data obtained from the UNOS. There was a higher incidence of unconventional and life-threatening infections such as malaria, invasive fungal infections, pneumonia, HIV and hepatitis. Economic, medical and psychosocial issues were not addressed in donors. 65%-79% of the donors would not recommend others to sell a kidney

Conclusion: We suggest: (1) the establishment of a data-base to identify unique surgical, medical and immunosuppressive protocols for recipients. (2) Patients and physicians should be made aware of generally poor outcomes in commercial kidney transplantation. (3) Recipients should also be aware of the exploitation of donors.