

What to know about high KDPI kidneys



What is a high KDPI kidney?

KDPI stands for Kidney Donor Profile Index. This index gives deceased donor kidneys a score for how well they are expected to work.

A high KDPI kidney is a donor kidney from someone who has died that is expected to work for a shorter time (on average 7-10 years) due to the donor's age, height, weight, or health history.

There are also medium and low KDPI kidneys, which are expected to work for longer (on average 10-15 years).

Why might someone choose a high KDPI kidney?

For many people, high KDPI kidneys work very well for a long time.

People who are open to a high KDPI kidney may have a shorter time on the waitlist and on dialysis. The shorter your time on the waitlist or dialysis, the better for your health. In fact, being on dialysis for 5 or more years can be hard on your body, raising your chance of serious health problems or even death.

Saying you are open to a high KDPI kidney does not mean it is the only type of kidney you can get – it just may give you more options and a kidney sooner.



Your transplant doctors will ask if you are open to a high KDPI kidney during your evaluation and yearly follow-up appointments. But you can talk to them about your decision to accept a high KDPI kidney at any time.

Some people first decide to not accept a high KDPI kidney, then after spending a while on the waitlist and dialysis, they end up accepting a high KDPI kidney after all. **If you are open to a high KDPI kidney – let your transplant doctors know right away.**

Is a high KDPI kidney right for me?

High KDPI kidneys may be a good option for people who:

- Are age 50 or older
- Do not do well on dialysis or want to get off dialysis
- Want to shorten their time on the waitlist
- Have other health problems that may make it harder to get a transplant in the future



Do any of these apply to you?

Talk to your transplant doctor to learn more about high KDPI kidneys.

Questions to ask your transplant team about high KDPI kidneys

You can ask questions or change your mind about being open to accepting a high KDPI kidney at any time.

- ☐ Based on my current health, what are the pros and cons of accepting a high KDPI kidney?
- ☐ How could a high KDPI kidney affect my other health issues?
- ☐ If I get a high KDPI kidney, will I need different care after the transplant than if I got a low KDPI kidney?
- ☐ What is your transplant center's average wait time for a low, medium, and high KDPI kidney?
- ☐ Can I talk to other patients from your center who have gotten a high KDPI kidney?
- ☐ What happens if I turn down a high KDPI kidney?



Resources



Learn more about high KDPI kidneys

kidney.org/kdpi



Watch a short video about high KDPI kidneys