



## The Kidney Transplant Surgery

### What Is the Surgery Like?

Doctors will do tests to make sure the donor kidney will be a good match. The transplant surgery takes about two to four hours. Usually, only one kidney is transplanted. On rare occasions two kidneys are transplanted. During the surgery, doctors will place the new kidney in your lower belly. Your belly is also called the abdomen. A person can live a healthy life with one working kidney.

### What Happens After the Surgery?

Your transplant team will check to make sure the new kidney is working. Your new kidney may start to work and make urine right away. If it does not, you may have to go on dialysis. This may be only until your new kidney begins to work. Your transplant team will make appointments to see you after the surgery.

After surgery, you will be given medicines to help your body keep the new kidney. If your body's immune system attacks the new kidney, it is called rejection. The medicines you take after transplant help prevent rejection. You must always take these medicines. You should never skip a dose.

And, these medicines will reduce the strength of your immune system. This can lead to infections. Your transplant team will tell you about all the medicines you will need to take after the transplant. Ask about any side effects. Over time, these medicines may also increase your risk of cancer. People who take them should avoid getting a suntan. They also should not use tanning beds. Both of these things increase risk of skin cancer.



**It is very important  
to go to all  
transplant check-ups.**

**Ask your dialysis unit social worker or the transplant center coordinator to connect you to a patient who has gone through the transplant process.**



3000 Bayport Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33607 | 844.472.4250 | 813.354.1514 fax | [www.esrdncc.org](http://www.esrdncc.org)

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