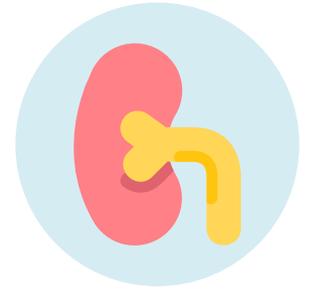


Kidney Transplant: Tackling Transplant Infections

Getting a kidney transplant may give you a new chance to have a healthy life. You may also notice changes in your health that you did not have before the transplant. One of those changes is a higher risk of infection. If germs get into your body, it can cause an infection. An infection is your body's response to fighting against those germs.

As a transplant patient, you may get infections more easily because you must take medicines that help keep your body from rejecting the new kidney. These medicines are called immunosuppressants. Your body has a protection system that helps fight infections, called the immune system. Immunosuppressants lower the body's immune system, so it is easier for transplant patients to get infections. It also makes it a little more difficult for transplant patients to recover from infections.



Some infections may happen in transplant patients more often than they happen in patients who have not received a transplant. These infections may be more likely to happen during the first six months after your transplant surgery.

In the time after your transplant surgery, common infections that might occur:

During the first month	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urinary tract infection• Intravenous (IV) line infection• Wound infection• Pneumonia• Human herpes simplex virus
During second through sixth month	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cytomegalovirus (CMV)• Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV)• Pneumonia• Central nervous system (CNS) infection
After six months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hepatitis B or C• Acute and chronic opportunistic infection
During the first year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BK Virus (polyomavirus)

Be sure to ask your doctor or transplant coordinator for more information about these infections.

It is very important to know and understand the signs and symptoms of these infections. It may be easier for your body to fight an infection if it is identified and treated as soon as possible.



1. United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). (2020, May 20). Transplant Living-Infections and immunity. Retrieved from <https://transplantliving.org/after-the-transplant/preventing-rejection/infections-and-immunity/>.
2. National Kidney Foundation. (2020, May 29). Immunosuppressants. Retrieved from <https://www.kidney.org/atoz/content/immuno>.



3000 Bayport Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33607 | 844.472.4250 | 813.354.1514 fax | www.esrdncc.org

This material was prepared by the End Stage Renal Disease National Coordinating Center (ESRD NCC) contractor under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents do not necessarily reflect CMS policy not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. FL-ESRD NCC-7N5TA2-06222020-01

