



Department of Nephrology Center for Renal Transplantation

Nephrologists in Cleveland Clinic's Center for Renal Transplantation work closely with prospective transplant candidates and kidney donors to provide the best possible outcomes. The center implements research-based strategies to deliver a continuum of care to patients.

Areas of Focus

Clinical and Surgical Care | Donor Wellness | Education | Kidney Function Research

We combine four decades of kidney transplant experience with a focus on renal function research. The result is the Center for Renal Transplantation, dedicated to managing the kidney transplant life cycle, from donor risk assessment to pre-surgical care for transplant patients and long-term monitoring. Through collaboration with urologists within the Glickman Urological & Kidney Institute, the center delivers compassionate and comprehensive care every step of the way.

Cleveland Clinic performed its first kidney transplant in 1963. Since that date, Cleveland Clinic surgeons have performed more than 3,000 kidney transplants.

Clinical and Surgical Care

The Department of Nephrology is a leader in kidney function research, which plays a critical role in pre-transplant patient evaluation. By understanding patient and donor risks prior to surgery, nephrologists can implement appropriate medical strategies to improve the body's acceptance of a donor organ. A team of dedicated professionals specializing in renal transplant care is committed to patients and their families. We provide:

- Comprehensive pre-transplant evaluation, which includes a complete physical and consultation with the Renal Transplantation Team
- Pre-surgical monitoring of the immune system
- Kidney function assessment for donors to determine suitability
- Customized surgical and medical strategies to address transplant candidate and donor needs
- A team of experienced nephrologists who monitor patients before, during and after surgery

Donor Wellness

The Department of Nephrology offers an innovative wellness clinic focused on individuals who have donated a living organ. The Center for Renal Transplantation provides donors with health and lifestyle education in conjunction with the Cleveland Clinic Wellness Institute.

- Donors can participate in the Wellness Institute's Lifestyle 180 program, which reduces the effects of chronic disease through lifestyle modification, with a focus on nutrition, exercise and stress management.
- We provide monitoring of donors before and after surgery to observe blood pressure and vascular health.
- Our goal is to improve kidney transplant results through the emphasis on presurgical organ health.

Education

The Department of Nephrology offers resident physicians from all over the world an opportunity to participate in an active renal transplant program. It includes exposure to state-of-the-art kidney function research and practice. The department provides residents experiences in all modalities of dialysis care, specialty clinics in renal stone disease, renal transplantation, chronic renal diseases and hypertension.

Kidney Function Research

The Department of Nephrology's state-of-the-art laboratories serve as an innovative center for kidney function research. Cleveland Clinic is known for its study of prospective donors and has been successfully performing kidney transplants since 1963. The glomerular filtration rate (GFR) laboratory has provided core renal function services for major trials in nephrology, and data from the laboratory has served to refine how we estimate GFR (a measure of kidney function) in daily practice in healthy patients and in patients with chronic kidney disease. The Center for Renal Transplantation works closely with the GFR laboratory and pioneers important kidney function studies while participating in multicenter research trials.

Predicting Kidney Transplant Outcomes

Cleveland Clinic is participating in the Clinical Trials in Organ Transplantation (CTOT) multicenter National Institutes of Health study to predict kidney transplant outcomes. Considering the shortage of organs and long waiting lists of patients awaiting kidney transplantation, maximizing the results of transplant surgery is critical so that patients do not reject an organ and return to the waiting list.

- The observational study involves collection of blood and urine samples of kidney transplant patients.
- Markers in blood and urine may indicate whether a patient is more likely to reject an organ.
- In the future, researchers hope that data will help identify patients who are likely to reject an organ before surgery so that aggressive strategies can be implemented to improve the outcome.

Alloreactivity in Human Transplant Candidates

The Cleveland Clinic Department of Nephrology is the primary driver in a study to measure the immunological risk of patients who are on dialysis and awaiting kidney transplant. The study will help determine markers in blood samples of dialysis patients that may put them at a higher risk for rejecting an organ or performing poorly after renal transplantation.



The Cleveland Clinic kidney transplant program is part of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and meets all requirements for kidney transplants.

For an appointment with a nephrologist,
call 216.444.6771

For more information,
visit clevelandclinic.org/nephrology.