

Selection Criteria for Kidney Transplant Candidates

Nearly all forms of chronic kidney disease may, in appropriate circumstances, be treated by kidney transplantation. Because of this we more commonly speak of strong reasons not to have a transplant (“absolute contraindications”) and less strong reasons not to have a transplant (“relative contraindications”).

Absolute contraindications

1. Cardiac disease such as inoperable blockages of the heart arteries or pumping efficiency of less than 25% (except as part of combined heart-kidney transplant)
2. Lung disease requiring the use of continuous oxygen
3. Severe liver disease (except as part of combined liver)
4. Severe disease of arteries to the head or legs
5. Irreversible cancer
6. HIV infection with active AIDS
7. Life expectancy with a transplant of less than 4 years

Relative Contraindications

1. Obesity
2. Advanced age
3. Substance abuse
4. Active infection
5. Disorder of the clotting system
6. Active immunologic disease
7. Untreated psychiatric disease
8. Medical noncompliance (failure to follow medical advice on such things as appointments, consultations, tests, dialysis treatments, medications, diet, etc.)
9. Lack of social or financial supports