

# Equations used to place patients on transplant waitlists may create disparities

November 6 2015

---

Different equations used to qualify patients for the kidney transplant waitlist may result in inequities, according to a study that will be presented at ASN Kidney Week 2015 November 3–8 at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, CA.

Approximately 4% to 6% of patients on the [kidney](#) transplant waitlist die each year. Therefore, patients may benefit from being placed on the list sooner. Benjamin J. Lee, MD (University of California, San Francisco) and his colleagues assessed the relative performance of 3 commonly used kidney function equations (termed Cockcroft-Gault, MDRD, and CKD-EPI) used when placing patients on the waiting list.

The team found that the equations yield discordant results for waitlist qualification. Furthermore, choice of equation led to significant and consistent differences in qualification time when applied to 3 different patient cohorts: a group of waitlisted patients at 1 major US academic center and 2 national, multicenter study groups of CKD patients, 1 with only African Americans and the other with predominantly Caucasians. The Cockcroft-Gault equation most often disadvantaged patients as compared with the MDRD and CKD-EPI equations. On average, time to waitlist qualification would be delayed on the order of 1 to 2 years by using the Cockcroft-Gault equation, as compared with the MDRD equation or CKD-EPI equation.

"Given the high observed mortality rates for patients on the waitlist and median wait times of 1.4 to 3.3 years, depending on geographic location,

for deceased donor transplants in the United States, the magnitude of these differences is concerning," said Dr. Lee. "The Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network may need to revise the language in kidney transplantation policies so that consistent methods to assess kidney function are adopted and [patients](#) are not inadvertently disadvantaged."

**More information:** Study: "Choice of Equation to Estimate Kidney Function Has Large Impact on Timing of Kidney Transplant Waitlist Qualification" (Abstract FR-PO1018)

Provided by American Society of Nephrology

Citation: Equations used to place patients on transplant waitlists may create disparities (2015, November 6) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-11-equations-patients-transplant-waitlists-disparities.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--