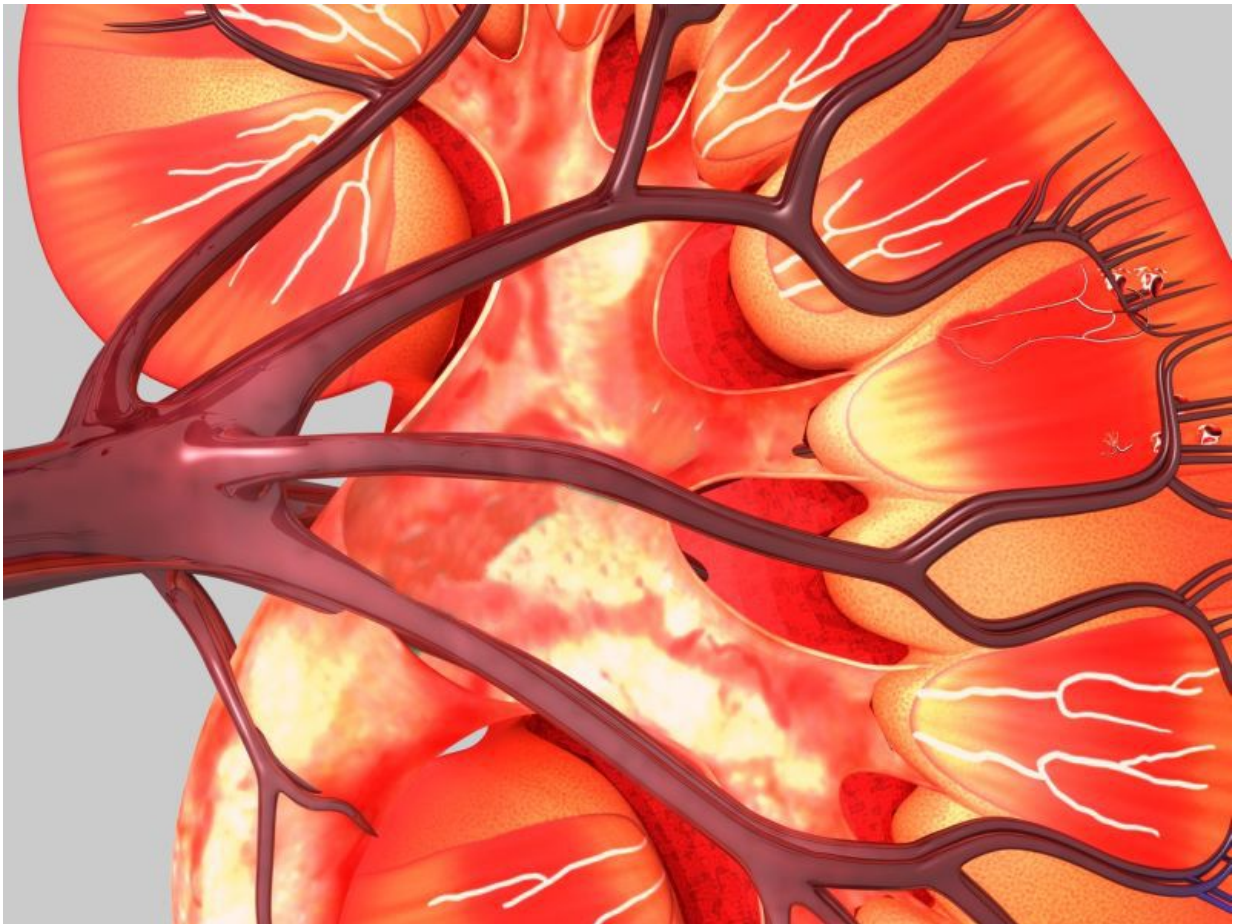


Survival benefit for kidneys from incompatible living donors

March 10 2016



(HealthDay)—In what researchers are calling a possible "paradigm

shift," a new study shows kidney disease patients may live longer if they receive a transplant from an incompatible living donor rather than wait for a good match. The research was published in the March 10 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Dorry Segev, M.D., Ph.D., an associate professor of surgery at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, and colleagues followed 1,025 sensitized patients who received a kidney from an incompatible donor at one of 22 transplant centers in the United States. They compared the patients' survival with that of two control groups: 5,125 patients on the transplant waiting list who eventually received a kidney; and 5,125 of wait-list patients who had to remain on dialysis.

After eight years, 76.5 percent of the incompatible-donor [patients](#) were still alive. That compared with 43.9 percent of [dialysis patients](#) and 62.9 percent of those who ultimately received a deceased-donor organ.

The desensitization process, including immunosuppressant medication, also adds about \$20,000 to \$30,000 to the cost of getting a [transplant](#), according to the University of Wisconsin's [transplant center](#), one of the U.S. programs that performs the procedure. But it's still far cheaper than dialysis in the long run, Segev said in a news release from Johns Hopkins.

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Citation: Survival benefit for kidneys from incompatible living donors (2016, March 10) retrieved 2 May 2024 from

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