

Transplanting HCV+ kidneys into HCV- recipients feasible

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(HealthDay)—In a research letter published online April 30 in the *New*

England Journal of Medicine, Philadelphia doctors write that they have cleared hepatitis C infections in 10 patients who received kidneys from deceased donors who had the virus.

In 2016, researchers at Penn Medicine began investigating the effectiveness of transplants from donors with [hepatitis C](#). The kidneys were given to [patients](#) between 40 and 65 years old who had waited for at least a year and a half. Patients and their families underwent a thorough vetting process, to make sure they understood the risks involved.

After receiving the [donor kidneys](#), all 10 patients tested positive for hepatitis C. All were treated with a 12-week antiviral therapy of elbasvir/grazoprevir. Early data from the study revealed this treatment effectively cleared hepatitis C from all of the patients.

"Our pilot data demonstrate the ability to cure the contracted virus following transplantation in this patient population," study co-leader, David Goldberg, M.D., an assistant professor of [medicine](#) and epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in Philadelphia, said in a university news release. "If future studies are successful, this may be a viable option for patients who may otherwise never see a transplant."

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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