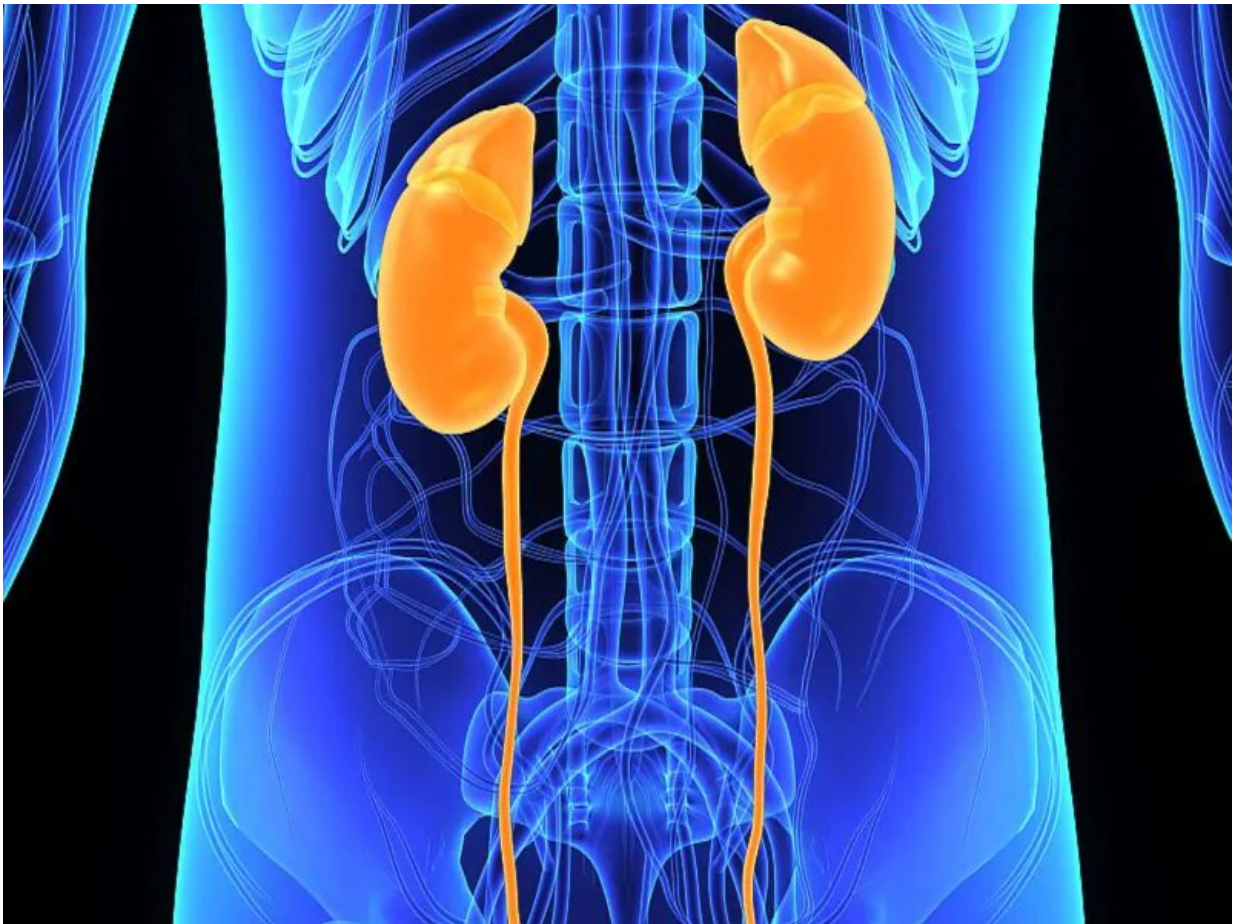


End-stage renal disease patients at higher risk for syphilis

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(HealthDay)—End-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients are at a higher

risk for contracting syphilis, according to a study recently published in the *Clinical Kidney Journal*.

Erena N. Weathers, M.D., of Augusta University in Georgia, and colleagues examined the incidence of and risk factors for syphilis in 759,066 ESRD patients who received an inpatient diagnosis of syphilis from 2004 through 2010.

A total of 383 patients within the study group were diagnosed with syphilis, for an incidence rate three times greater than that seen in the general population. The researchers found the eight-year incidence of any type of syphilis in ESRD patients was 50.45 cases per 100,000 person-years. The most common diagnoses were neurosyphilis (10.93 cases per 100,000 person-years) and other unspecified syphilis (29.77 per 100,000 person-years). The adjusted relative risk for syphilis was higher for patients with HIV (7.61), hepatitis C (3.57), herpes simplex (2.06), and hepatitis B (1.75). The greatest number of cases were found for younger patients, black and non-Hispanic patients, and those living along the east and west coasts of the United States.

"Patients with ESRD may be at particular risk for syphilis due to the more frequent occurrence of known [risk factors](#) for the disease, including HIV," the authors write. "Despite the presence of these comorbidities, the incidence of syphilis in the ESRD population has not been reported. It is important to appreciate the prevalence of [syphilis](#) in this group, because if detected, the disease is easily treatable."

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

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