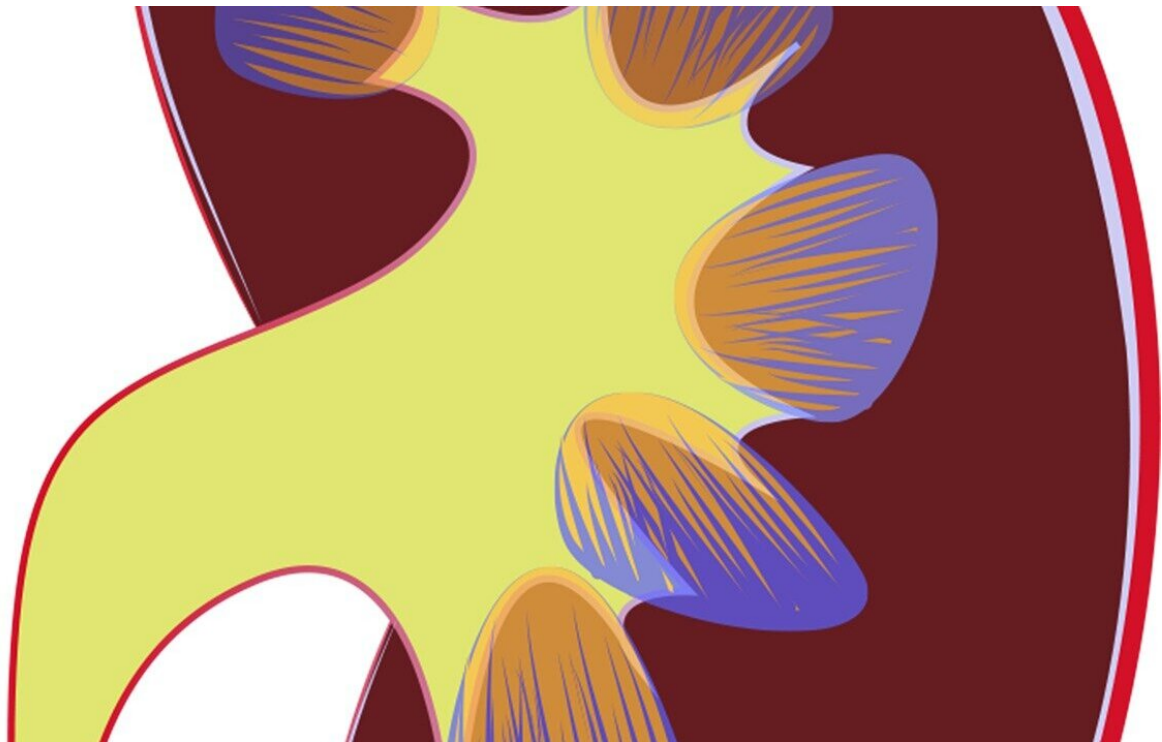


Study examines reliability of biopsies from donated kidneys prior to transplantation

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A new study indicates that biopsies of donated kidneys are likely not useful for assessing organ quality prior to transplantation unless standards are set for how they should be performed and interpreted. The findings appear in an upcoming issue of *CJASN*.

There is currently a large shortage of donated kidneys that leads to the death of many patients with [kidney failure](#) in need of a [transplant](#); however, 1 out of every 5 kidneys recovered for the purpose of transplantation is not transplanted, largely due to concerns over organ quality that often stem from the results of a biopsy.

To determine whether a donated kidney is suitable for transplantation, clinicians often examine [biopsy samples](#) from the kidney under a microscope. Prior studies have shown mixed results about whether these findings are actually reliable, however.

To look into the issue, a team led by S. Ali Husain, MD, MPH and Sumit Mohan, MD, MPH (Columbia University Irving Medical Center) conducted a study of 606 kidneys that had 2 separate biopsies performed. The researchers found that the results were often quite different between the biopsies, and that only the second biopsies yielded useful information about kidney quality that correlated with how well the organ functioned after transplantation. Kidneys that underwent multiple biopsies were overwhelmingly first biopsied at other organ procurement organizations, whereas almost all of the second biopsies were performed and interpreted at the investigators' local organ procurement organization.

"These findings suggest that current decision-making about [kidney](#) quality may often be based on misleading information, but that standardizing [biopsy](#) techniques may result in more helpful biopsies," said Dr. Husain.

More information: "Reproducibility of Deceased Donor Kidney Procurement Biopsies," *CJASN*, [DOI: 10.2215/CJN.09170819](https://doi.org/10.2215/CJN.09170819)

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