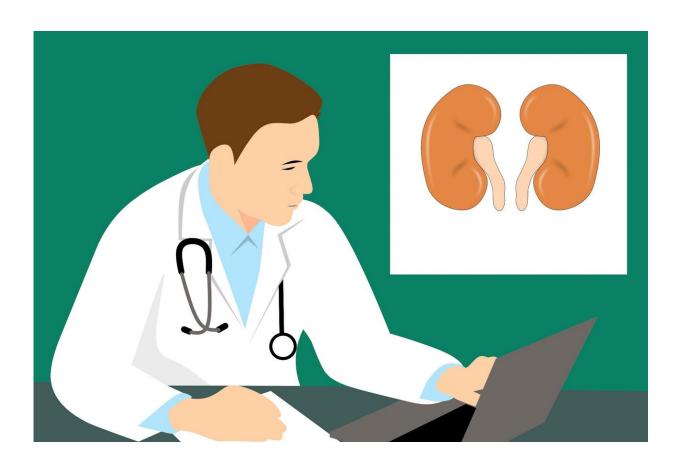


Distance to transplant center and likelihood of being considered for transplantation

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In a study of Southeastern U.S. patients undergoing dialysis, the distance from a patient's residence to the nearest transplant center did not appear to affect access to early steps in the kidney transplantation process. The



findings appear in an upcoming issue of CJASN.

To be considered for <u>kidney transplantation</u>, patients must be referred to a transplant center for <u>medical evaluation</u>, most often from a <u>dialysis</u> <u>facility</u>. Prior research suggests that the distance a person must travel to reach a transplant center might be a barrier to referral.

To investigate, Laura J. McPherson, MPH, Rachel E. Patzer, Ph.D., MPH (Emory University School of Medicine), and their colleagues examined whether a shorter distance from patients' residence to a transplant center increased the likelihood of referral and initiating a transplant evaluation once referred.

For the study, the investigators examined information on adults who began treatment for <u>kidney failure</u> at any Georgia, North Carolina, or South Carolina dialysis facility from 2012 through 2015.

Among 27,250 patients, 9,582 (35%) were referred to a transplant center within 1 year of dialysis initiation, and among those referred, 58% initiated evaluation within 6 months of referral. Although patients living the farthest (>90 miles) compared with the shortest (

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