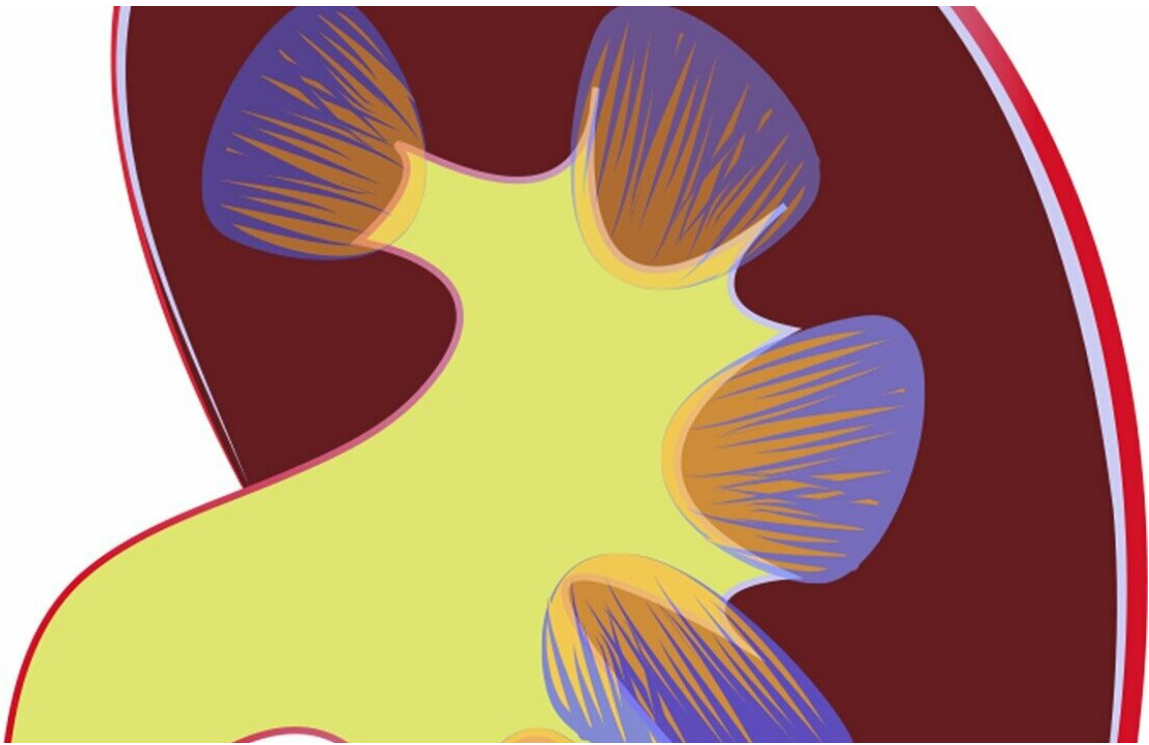


Study examines antibody response to COVID-19 vaccination in patients with kidney failure

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In a recent study, most patients with kidney failure who were undergoing hemodialysis developed a substantial antibody response following the vaccination with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine against COVID-19, but it

was significantly lower than that of individuals without kidney disease. The findings will appear in an upcoming issue of *CJASN*.

Individuals with kidney failure who are receiving [dialysis treatments](#) have a higher risk of experiencing severe COVID-19 if they become infected with the virus that causes the disease. Therefore, vaccination may be especially important for these patients; however, they also tend to mount reduced immune responses against infections and vaccinations. To assess their responses to COVID-19 vaccination, a team led by Moshe Shashar MD (Laniado Hospital and Tel-Aviv Medical Center, Israel) compared antibody responses following vaccination with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in 56 patients on maintenance hemodialysis vs. 95 [healthcare workers](#).

All of the healthcare workers developed a positive antibody response to the virus that causes COVID-19, compared with 96% of participants in the dialysis group. The average antibody levels in patients on dialysis were significantly lower than those among healthcare workers. Also, there was a significant inverse correlation of age and antibody levels in both groups.

Although the findings are preliminary and warrant further clarifications and verifications, they suggest that COVID-19 vaccination doses and schedules should be reconsidered for individuals with kidney failure who are on dialysis.

"I believe our findings should encourage patients with [kidney failure](#) treated with dialysis to be vaccinated as soon as vaccination becomes available for them, while we as a care givers should explore ways to enhance its efficacy in our patients," said Dr. Shashar.

More information: "Humoral Response to the Pfizer BNT162b2 Vaccine in Patients Undergoing Maintenance Hemodialysis," [DOI:](#)

[10.2215/CJN.03500321](#)

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