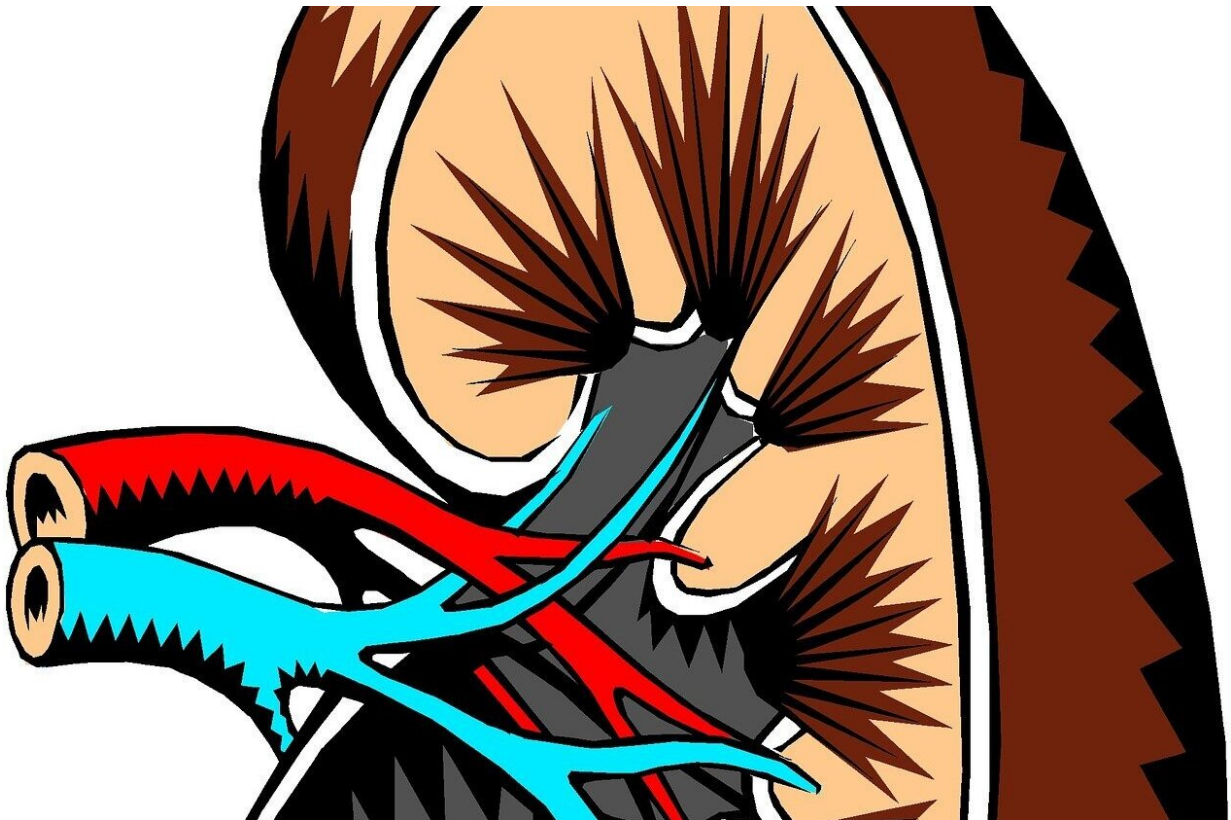


Study reveals high burden of COVID-related deaths among kidney transplant recipients and patients with kidney failure

September 29 2021



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Individuals with kidney failure and those who have received a kidney transplant are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 and are thought to

have a higher risk of dying from it than adults in the general population. Although most of this evidence comes from small studies, a recent extensive analysis supports these findings. The analysis appears in an upcoming issue of *CJASN*.

For the analysis, Sumit Mohan, MD, MPH (Columbia University Irving Medical Center) and his colleagues examined national data on [kidney transplant](#) recipients and individuals with kidney failure who are candidates for a kidney transplant.

Among the major findings:

- In 2020, 11% of deaths in patients with [kidney failure](#) who were candidates for a kidney transplant were attributed to COVID-19, and these deaths were more likely in individuals who were male, obese, and belonged to racial/[ethnic minority](#) groups.
- Nearly 1 in 6 deaths (16%) among transplant recipients in the United States in 2020 was attributed to COVID-19. Recipients who died of COVID-19 were younger, more likely to be obese, had lower [educational attainment](#), and were more likely to belong to racial/ethnic minority groups than those who died of other causes in 2020 or 2019.
- Compared with 2019, there was a 24% higher overall mortality rate in 2020 among patients on the transplant waitlist and a 20% higher rate among kidney transplant recipients.

"This is the first analysis of national level COVID-19–related mortality in transplant recipients and patients waitlisted for a kidney transplant," said Dr. Mohan. "There was a large increase in deaths among these susceptible individuals, with a disproportionate impact on minorities."

Study co-authors include Kristen King, MPH, S Ali Husain, MD, MPH, and Jesse Schold, Ph.D.

The article, titled "COVID-19–Associated Mortality among Kidney Transplant Recipients and Candidates in the United States," will appear in *CJASN* on September 29, 2021.

More information: "COVID-19–Associated Mortality among Kidney Transplant Recipients and Candidates in the United States," *CJASN*, DOI: [10.2215/CJN.02690221](https://doi.org/10.2215/CJN.02690221)

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