

UCLA Kidney Exchange

An option for patients with incompatible living donors



What is a kidney exchange?



A kidney exchange is an innovative twist on efforts aimed at increasing the donor pool by giving people who are unable to receive a kidney from a loved one or friend the opportunity to still receive a kidney through an exchange between incompatible donor-recipient pairs.

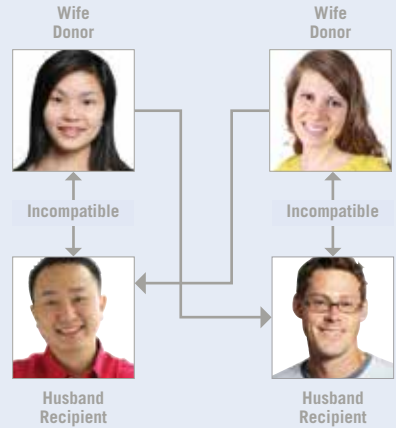
Approximately one-third of patients who have a willing living kidney donor will not be able to receive the donor kidney because of an incompatible blood type or incompatible crossmatch. In the past, that would mean that patients often would have to wait for years on dialysis until a deceased donor kidney became available.

Now, with this exciting new program, you can exchange donors with another pair(s) in a similar situation as you, making transplantation possible.

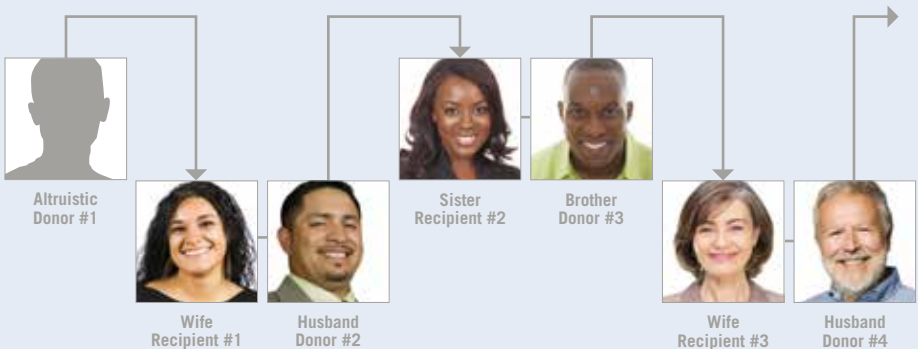
Two types of kidney exchanges are possible:

Paired Donor Exchange Transplantation

(SWAP): If a donor and recipient have a different blood type, they can exchange their kidneys with another donor and recipient pair in a similar situation. This can also be done among three pairs.



Chain Transplantation: A donor chain creates opportunities for endless recipient-donor pairings. It starts with an altruistic donor—someone who wants to donate a kidney out of the goodness of his or her heart. That kidney is transplanted into a recipient who had a donor willing to give a kidney, but was not a match. To keep the chain going, the incompatible donor gives a kidney to a patient unknown to him or her who has been identified as a match, essentially “paying it forward.” A specialized computer program matches donors and recipients across the country.





What are the benefits of participating in an exchange program?

- Receive a kidney sooner, maybe before requiring dialysis
- Receive a living donor kidney, which on average lasts longer than a deceased donor kidney
- Receive a better matched kidney, which would potentially require fewer drugs and last longer
- Provides a very rewarding experience for the donor since multiple families are helped by the donation



Can I join the program even if I have a compatible donor?

Yes, even if you have a compatible donor, you and your donor can join. In fact, the program may enable you to receive a kidney from a younger donor, or a better matched kidney.

Some donors, especially those with O blood types, may want to participate because of the opportunity to help more than one recipient.

Can the exchange families meet?

Once the transplant has taken place, if the other patients agree, you will have the opportunity to meet the other families involved in the exchange.

How do we get started?

Call (310) 267-6907

For more information

transplants.ucla.edu/kidneyexchange

UCLA's Kidney Transplantation Program performed some of the earliest transplantations in the United States, and for more than 50 years has been a national leader in both clinical research and academic excellence. UCLA is one of the largest kidney transplant programs in the country, performing more than 300 transplantations each year. More importantly, UCLA has some of the best outcomes, according to the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients, a national database of organ transplant statistics. UCLA's program has helped to pioneer donor exchanges, and performed the first transcontinental chain in July 2008.

“It’s beautiful to see a donor helping his or her loved one as well as a total stranger. This program has the potential to dramatically increase the number of transplants performed in the United States.”

— Dr. Jeffrey Veale, *UCLA kidney transplant surgeon*



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