

Living Kidney Transplant Recipient

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I was diagnosed with FSGS at the age of 5 and have been under care of various Dr's in several countries since, I was always told that it was only a matter of time until I would require dialysis and a transplant. I moved to Los Angeles in 2016 after facing some serious health issues to take re-evaluate life.

Shortly after moving, I was blessed to meet Dr. Rastogi, in our first meeting he made a statement that changed my life. I had gone to the appointment expecting him to say we will monitor you and you will need to go on dialysis and then wait on the list for a transplant, this was the standard plan I had heard my whole life. Dr. Rastogi asked me if I had considered a living donor, I mentioned to him that I didn't have anyone that was appropriate and he suggested Social Media and mentioned that he has seen many cases in which if friends and family knew that donation was an option they would have done it, however, they weren't told or asked until it was too late.

Now that's food for thought.

I then met one of Dr. Rastogi's teammates and he told me about a story of a person who went on Facebook to find a donor. Initially the response to his request was negative and he gave up, even stopped logging into Facebook. A few weeks later, he logged in and was surprised to see multiple messages from a woman who was interested in donating, she left her phone number for him. He was skeptical, but called and she told him that she would like to donate her kidney, no strings attached. It turns out that her motivation was a pact her and her 2 sisters made to donate their kidneys after losing their Mom to kidney disease and being too young to donate at that time.

I knew what I had to do. Asking for help doesn't come easy for me, but the signs were clear. I had my brother record a video of me explaining my situation and making my request. I had over 8,000 views in a week and several people came forward. A lot of them did not qualify or changed their mind after starting the process, there was however one very special Angel who came forward and have me the gift of life.

After going through this journey, I asked Dr. Rastogi how I could give back and we decided to reignite the Green Ribbon Campaign to raise awareness for kidney disease. Through this program, we distribute thousands of green ribbons to spark a conversation about Kidney Disease in order to help other on their journey. I'm also a very active member of The Circle of CORE kidney support and advocacy group. My mission is to support other late stage kidney patients on their journey through the transplantation process.

Dr. Rastogi and his team, including Dr. Kamgar and Dr. Nobakht, are truly amazing, I have never met such a supportive compassionate group of doctors who work so closely with their patients.

Thank you, Dr. Rastogi, for making this possible.

