

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE until May 31, 2018 – 5:00 PM (ET)

Contacts: Tracy Hampton • (312) 339-9067 • thampton@nasw.org
Christine Feheley • (202) 640-4638 • cfeheley@asn-online.org

STUDY EXAMINES CONCERNS OF LIVING KIDNEY DONORS

Highlights

- Among living kidney donors, the post-donation concern that was considered most important was kidney health, followed by the surgical, lifestyle, functional, and psychosocial impacts of donation.
- The hypothetical long-term risks associated with kidney removal—including mortality and cardiovascular disease—were of relatively lower importance.

Living kidney donor transplants comprise nearly one-quarter of kidney transplants performed worldwide.

Washington, DC (May 31, 2018) — In a new study that examined living kidney donors' concerns about their decision to undergo kidney removal, long-term kidney health, aspects of surgery and recovery, and impacts on life satisfaction were among those that donors felt were most important. The findings appear in an upcoming issue of the *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* (CJASN).

Increasing living kidney donations is critical to address the global shortage of organs. Donor candidates must accept a range of risks and benefits when they decide to have a kidney removed, and it is important to determine which of these they consider most important.

To identify which impacts of kidney donation are deemed important by living kidney donors, Camilla Hanson, BPsych(Hons), PhD (University of Sydney, in Australia) and her colleagues recruited previous donors from 3 transplant units in Australia and Canada to participate in focus groups. Participants had a range of demographic (gender and age), and donation characteristics (time since donation, relationship with the recipient, and complications).

Across 14 focus groups that included 123 donors, the post-donation outcome that was most important to kidney donors was kidney health, followed by the surgical, lifestyle, functional, and psychosocial impacts of donation. The hypothetical long-term risks associated with kidney removal—including mortality and cardiovascular disease—were of relatively lower importance.

Specifically, the 10 highest ranked outcomes were kidney function, time to recovery, surgical complications, impact on family, donor-recipient relationship, life satisfaction, lifestyle restrictions, kidney failure, mortality, and acute pain/discomfort.

Some differences were observed in the importance of outcomes between donors recruited from Australia and Canada. Canadian donors ranked kidney function and failure higher than Australian participants, who ranked time to recovery, physical function, impact on family, donor-recipient relationship, and financial impact higher.

“Our results may help to ensure that the outcomes most relevant to donors are consistently included in research, education, assessment, and follow-up care,” said Dr. Hanson.

In an accompanying editorial, Milda Saunders, MD, MPH and Michelle Josephson, MD (University of Chicago) note that the study illustrates that past donors care about both medical and non-medical outcomes. “More than anything, this work demonstrates that we cannot simply assume we know what donors care and worry about. We must talk with them about their priorities and concerns both before and after surgery,” they wrote.

An accompanying Patient Voice article reflects the impact that pediatric-onset end-stage renal disease has on patients and their families and the personal perspective of a donor-recipient team.

Study co-authors include Jeremy Chapman FRACP, John Gill MD, John Kanellis, PhD, Germaine Wong PhD, Jonathan Craig, PhD, Armando Teixeira-Pinto, Steve Chadban, PhD, Amit Garg, PhD, Angelique Ralph, BPsych(Hons), Jule Pinter, MD, Joshua Lewis, PhD, and Allison Tong, PhD.

Disclosures: The authors reported no financial disclosures.

The article, entitled “Identifying Outcomes that Are Important to Living Kidney Donors,” will appear online at <http://cjasn.asnjournals.org/> on May 31, 2018, doi: 10.2215/CJN.13441217.

The editorial, entitled “Donor Outcomes: We Need to Listen,” will appear online at <http://cjasn.asnjournals.org/> on May 31, 2018.

The Patient Voice article, entitled “Living Donation: The Donors and Recipient Perspectives,” will appear online at <http://cjasn.asnjournals.org/> on May 31, 2018.

The content of this article does not reflect the views or opinions of The American Society of Nephrology (ASN). Responsibility for the information and views expressed therein lies entirely with the author(s). ASN does not offer medical advice. All content in ASN publications is for

informational purposes only, and is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions, or adverse effects. This content should not be used during a medical emergency or for the diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Please consult your doctor or other qualified health care provider if you have any questions about a medical condition, or before taking any drug, changing your diet or commencing or discontinuing any course of treatment. Do not ignore or delay obtaining professional medical advice because of information accessed through ASN. Call 911 or your doctor for all medical emergencies.

Since 1966, ASN has been leading the fight to prevent, treat, and cure kidney diseases throughout the world by educating health professionals and scientists, advancing research and innovation, communicating new knowledge, and advocating for the highest quality care for patients. ASN has more than 18,000 members representing 112 countries. For more information, please visit www.asn-online.org or contact the society at 202-640-4660.

#

Tweet: Study examines concerns of living kidney donors.

Facebook: In a new study that examined living kidney donors' concerns about their decision to undergo kidney removal, long-term kidney health, aspects of surgery and recovery, and impacts on life satisfaction were among those that donors felt were important. The findings appear the *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*.

*