

Understanding KDPI Scores in Kidney Transplant



ESRD Networks 7, 13, 15, 17, 18



Can you get a kidney transplant sooner?

There are different kinds of donated kidneys. Some have shorter wait times than others. You can choose which kind of kidney you're willing to take. Keep in mind that being open to more than one kind of donated kidney may make your wait for a transplant shorter.

Donated kidneys have a **KDPI (Kidney Donor Profile Index)** score. A KDPI score measures how long a kidney is likely to work. Scores range from 0% to 100%. A lower KDPI score is better. It means the kidney is likely to work longer.

KDPI is based on a donor's



Age



Height



Weight



Ethnicity



Cause of Death



Medical History,
Including:
Hepatitis C
High Blood Pressure
Diabetes
Protein Levels

KDPI Scores Explained



HIGH KDPI (>85)

A high KDPI (over 85%) means the donor was older or sicker than other donors when he or she died. These kidneys typically last 7–10 years. They are also called ECD (extended donor criteria) kidneys.

Your transplant center will need your written consent to transplant a kidney with a KDPI score of 85% or higher. A higher KDPI score may help you get a kidney sooner.

STANDARD KDPI (20–85)

A standard donor kidney has a KDPI score of 20%–85%. These kidneys typically last 10–15 years.

LOW KDPI (<20)

A low KDPI (under 20%) means the kidney is from a donor who was younger and healthier than other donors when he or she died. A kidney with a KDPI score of 20% means it is likely to work longer than most (80%) other donor kidneys. These kidneys typically last 10–15 years.

It may take a long time to get a kidney with a low KDPI score. You may not even get one at all, depending on your place on the wait list.

Why would someone choose a kidney with a high KDPI?

Sometimes kidneys with a high KDPI score are a good fit. If you have a lot of challenges from dialysis or if you are older and likely won't need the kidney to last for 20 years, you might choose a high KDPI kidney. These kidneys can still work well and may allow you to get a transplant sooner. Speak with your transplant team to help you decide what's best for you.

Deceased Donor Kidney Quality

Considerations for High KDPI Kidneys

Accepting a High KDPI Kidney

- Shorter wait time because of access to more donors
- Higher survival rate compared to dialysis for many patients
- Kidney may not last as long

Declining a High KDPI Kidney

- Lower KDPI score kidneys are projected to last longer
- Longer wait time because of access to smaller pool of donors
- Potentially lower survival rate due to longer wait time on the waiting list

References

1. **A Guide to Calculating and Interpreting the Kidney Donor Profile Index (KDPI) -**
https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/media/1512/guide_to_calculating_interpreting_kdpi.pdf
2. **Expanding Deceased Donor Kidney Transplantation: Medical Risk, Infectious Risk, HCV and HIV -**
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6352990>
3. **Increasing High KDPI Kidney Utilization -**
<https://unos.org/news/improvement/increasing-high-kdpi-kidney-utilization/>
4. **Kidney Donor Profile Index (KDPI) Guide for Clinicians -**
<https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/professionals/by-topic/guidance/kidney-donor-profile-index-kd-pi-guide-for-clinicians/>
5. **What is KDPI? A New Animation for Patients Explains the Kidney Donor Profile Index -**
<https://unos.org/news/in-focus/what-is-kdpi-a-new-animation-for-patients-explains-the-kidney-donor-profile-index/>



This document is intended to encourage further patient and caregiver education.

Please consult your healthcare providers for additional high KDPI information.