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DIFFERENT KIDNEY SOURCES FOR TRANSPLANTATION

Patients on dialysis know better than anyone how valuable is to get a healthy kidney from a donor. In Iran, the transplantation system is mostly based on the kidneys from living donors who offer one of their kidneys to those who need it under the supervision of the government. This model has solved the problem of waiting list for kidney transplant. However, to make sure that the sources are always enough for the increasing demand for kidney donors, we should plan all alternative sources of kidneys, including those from brain-dead donors. In 2000, the parliament of Iran legislated organ donation from deceased donors, and since then, there is a gradual increase in the proportion of kidneys transplanted from deceased donors. Transplant physicians now are interested to know if the outcome of deceased donor transplant is comparable to living donor transplant, which has been practiced for years in Iran.

In Baqyatollah Hospital, Dr Fattahi and his colleagues reported the 2-year results of their 121 deceased donor kidney transplants. They showed that 87% of these kidneys are well functioning after 2 years, which is still very good despite the superiority of living donor transplants. They found that one factor that increases the risk of kidney loss in these patients is the acute injury to the kidneys immediately after transplant because of the period from removal of the kidney from a cadaver and transplant it in which the kidneys suffer from lack of oxygenation. Fortunately, with the local system of distribution of the deceased donor kidneys, this period is short in Iran and can get even shorter. Therefore, Dr Fattahi and his colleagues believe that their results are promising and they can improve it further. Patients can make sure that deceased donors are also a good source of transplantation.

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