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DOES THE US DISCARD TOO MANY TRANSPLANTABLE KIDNEYS?

Study compares transplant data in the United States and France

Highlights

- An analysis reveals that many transplanted kidneys in France would have likely been discarded in the United States.
- Results from the study will be presented at ASN Kidney Week 2018 October 23–October 28 at the San Diego Convention Center.

San Diego, CA (October 27, 2018) — Comparing transplant data between countries may help address the global organ shortage, according to a study that will be presented at ASN Kidney Week 2018 October 23–October 28 at the San Diego Convention Center. The study provides evidence that some kidneys discarded in the United States are a lost opportunity that could have benefitted some patients.

Approximately 2,000 donated kidneys are discarded in the United States each year, despite a serious shortage of organs for transplantation. By studying transplant data from the United Network for Organ Sharing and from the French Organ Procurement Agency from 2004 to 2014, Olivier Aubert, MD, PhD, Alexandre Loupy, MD, PhD (Paris Translational Research Center for Organ Transplantation), and their colleagues compared kidney quality and outcomes between the United States and France.

During this period, 156,089 kidneys in the United States and 29,984 kidneys in France were procured for transplant. A much higher proportion of transplanted French kidneys were considered higher-risk organs (as measured by the kidney donor profile index, KDPI) compared with US organs. During the decade, the KDPI of US kidneys only increased modestly, while in France, a steadily rising KDPI reflected a trend of more aggressive organ use. Models predicted that many transplanted French kidneys would have had a high probability of discard in the US system. If US centers adopted greater willingness to accept kidneys from older donors and other higher-risk donor groups, this change would provide an additional 132,445 allograft life-years to US transplant candidates over 10 years.

“The global shortage of organs for transplantation is a major public health concern. In the US alone, approximately 100,000 individuals are waiting for a kidney transplant,” said Dr. Loupy. “New, creative solutions to address this concern are needed. By comparing

transplant practices in two countries, we provide fresh evidence that older deceased donor organs are a valuable underutilized resource.”

Dr. Aubert noted that international comparisons of transplant practice offer a natural experiment “so that the successful innovations in each country can be rapidly identified and exported. Transplantation could benefit from additional studies that cross borders, as this one did.”

Study: “Exploring the Viability of Kidneys Discarded in the US: A Comparison of Kidney Utilization Patterns and Outcomes in the US and France”

ASN Kidney Week 2018, the largest nephrology meeting of its kind, will provide a forum for more than 13,000 professionals to discuss the latest findings in kidney health research and engage in educational sessions related to advances in the care of patients with kidney and related disorders. Kidney Week 2018 will take place October 23 – October 28 at the San Diego Convention Center.

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 20,000 members representing 131 countries. For more information, please visit www.asn-online.org.

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