



Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center

Kidney Transplant

Selection Criteria – Who Can Get a Kidney Transplant?



What makes someone a good candidate for a transplant?

Patients who have or are nearing end stage renal disease (ESRD) may be looked at for a kidney transplant. Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center does not have an age standard. All patients are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. This helps to look at all people in a fair and nondiscriminatory way.

What things could cause problems with a transplant?

A. You can't have a transplant if you:

1. Have a substance abuse problem
2. Have advanced heart disease
3. Refuse or do not want a transplant
4. Have dementia that is getting worse or severe, or mental problems that keep you from following the medical treatment plan
5. Have cancer that is untreated or active

B. You may not be able to have a transplant if you:

1. Have collagen vascular disease (disease that affects your connective tissue such as lupus or rheumatoid arthritis)
2. Have untreated or uncontrolled HIV infection
3. Use tobacco and have diabetes (high blood sugar) or heart or lung disease
4. Have advanced cerebrovascular (disease that affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain) or neurodegenerative (disease that affects nerve cells in the brain) disease

5. Have advanced heart failure (unless you are a candidate for combined heart and kidney transplant)
6. Have advanced liver disease (unless you are a candidate for combined liver and kidney transplant)
7. Have an infection that is long-lasting or active
8. Have marked deconditioning (many changes in body systems brought about by physical inactivity and disuse) or poor functional status (ability to do normal daily activities)
9. Are morbidly obese which means you have a body mass Index (BMI) over 40. You may be a candidate if you are under age 40 and you don't have other chronic diseases.
10. Show a pattern of not being able to follow the treatment plan
11. Refuse to take blood products and your hemoglobin is less than 12
12. Have severe, chronic lung disease
13. Have severe malnutrition (lack of proper nutrition)
14. Have severe peripheral vascular disease (blood circulation disorder)
15. Do not have the support of family, friends or a social network to help you with your treatment plan and follow-up
16. Have untreated urologic disease (disease of urinary tract)

For more information, please call 704-355-2948 or 800-562-5752.