

The Renal Association UK Renal Registry



Kidney transplantation in the UK

Lay summary

For the full annual report chapters [click here](#) or visit www.renalreg.org/reports/2014-seventeenth-annual-report

Kidney transplantation is thought to be the best treatment for many patients with kidney failure. As you need to be registered on the waiting list in order to be offered a kidney transplant, the sooner you are registered the better your chances of receiving a transplant. One of the main analyses in the Registry's 2014 report explored differences between kidney units in getting patients onto the kidney transplant waiting list in the UK.

Analyses were performed on all patients starting dialysis or going straight to kidney transplantation between 2008 and 2010 across all 71 adult kidney units in the UK. Data were provided by NHS Blood and Transplant and the UK Renal Registry.

Figure 1 shows the percentage of patients in each kidney unit that get onto the kidney transplant waiting list within two years of starting dialysis. Most centres register between three and seven of every ten new dialysis patients on the transplant waiting list within two years of starting dialysis. Two out of every 10 centres had lower than expected numbers of patients on the waiting list by two years (i.e. they fall below the lower dotted line in Figure 1). Please bear in mind that as some patients may not be suitable for kidney transplantation a higher percentage does not necessarily indicate better care.

Older patients, non-white patients and those with diabetes were less likely to get onto the waiting list.

Analyses also suggested that patients starting dialysis in a non-transplanting kidney unit may be less likely to be listed for transplantation or to receive a transplant than those in a transplanting kidney unit. Once registered for kidney transplantation however, patients in both transplanting and non-transplanting renal centres had an equal chance of receiving a transplant.

These results need to be interpreted with caution as it was not possible to take into account all things known to affect suitability for kidney transplantation when comparing centres. Ongoing research is looking at this in more detail.

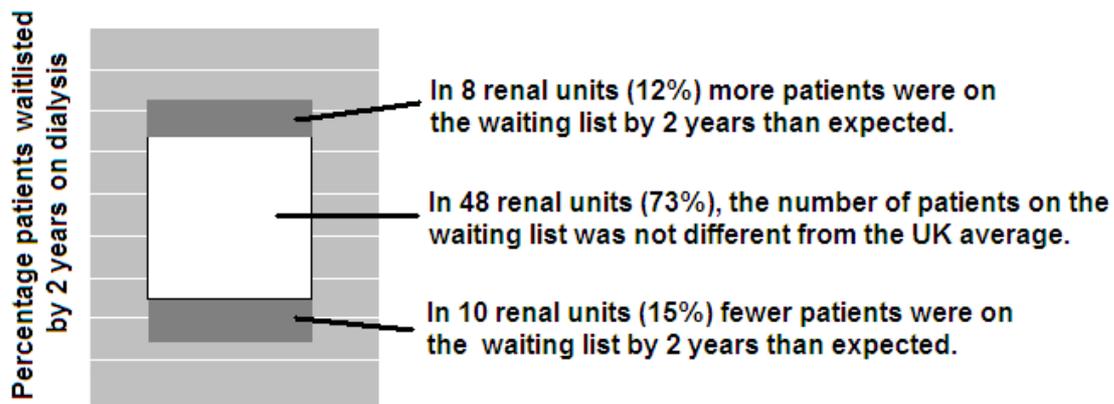


Figure 1. How renal units perform in getting patients added to the transplant waiting list within two years of starting dialysis
(Centres with less than 10 transplant waitlisted patients were excluded from the analysis)

Disclaimer

The UK Renal Registry collects information on patients in general. This lay summary was prepared in association with the UK Renal Registry's Patient Council including representation from the British Kidney Patient Association and the National Kidney Federation. For individual assessment and advice please speak to your health care professional. For further detail on information contained in this lay summary, please visit www.renalregistry.org.