

TECHNOLOGY

A new approach. The Alliance for Paired Donation has pioneered another option, in addition to traditional paired exchanges, called the “Never-ending Altruistic Donor” (NEAD™) chain, whereby the transplants need not be done at the same time.

With a NEAD™ chain, an altruistic donor—those without a loved one with kidney failure who just want to donate out of the goodness of their heart—starts the chain by donating a kidney to a stranger, just as Tracy Armstrong did. Tracy (pictured on the cover) from Toledo donated a kidney to Debra in Columbus. Debra’s daughter, Missy, wanted to donate a kidney to her mom, but they were different blood types, so instead of donating directly to her mom, she donated a kidney to Shirley in Orlando. Shirley’s daughter, Ethel, came to Toledo and donated a kidney to Mark. Later this year, Mark’s daughter, Andrea, will donate a kidney to someone else to keep the chain going.

The first NEAD chain, started by Matt Jones in July 2007, has already resulted in ten transplants, and more are scheduled for 2008.



ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

The Alliance for Paired Donation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. The mission of the Alliance is to significantly shorten the waiting time for kidney transplant patients through kidney paired donation. The Alliance aims to serve kidney patients through technology, education, and generosity. The APD is recognized by the IRS as a charitable organization for tax purposes. In addition to providing the matching program, the Alliance seeks to provide:

- Financial assistance for transplant patients, their family members, their living donors, and the families of living donors.
- Financial support for educational activities for patients and donors, and transplant-related professionals.

There are currently more than sixty participating transplant centers in 24 states, with more being added each month. Naturally, the more people who participate in the program, the better your chance of finding a match.

Financial assistance for patients is made possible through your generous gifts. For more information or to make a tax-deductible contribution, please go to www.paireddonation.org



The Alliance for Paired Donation

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The Mission of the Alliance for Paired Donation: to save lives by significantly shortening the waiting time for kidney transplant patients through kidney paired donation.



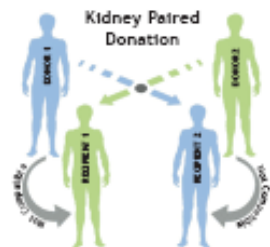
Tracy Armstrong (standing, center) donated a kidney in December 2007, which sparked the second Never-Ending Altruistic Donor chain; also pictured are Mark Templin (center) who received a kidney from Ethel Devine (right) and Andrea Saylor (left), Mark’s daughter, who will continue the chain in 2008.

BENEFITS

Transplantation saves lives. Did you know that the average patient with end stage renal disease will live 10 years longer if they receive a kidney transplant versus staying on dialysis? Unfortunately, there are not enough kidneys to help everyone in need. As of June 2008, there were more than 75,000 people on the kidney transplant list in America. Sadly, about 12 of these patients die every day while awaiting a kidney. To make matters worse, there are mysteries of the immune system that sometimes prevent willing donors from being able to donate a kidney to their loved one. It is estimated that one-third of all willing donors will have an incompatible blood type with their intended recipient.

Now for the good news. There is a new way to overcome this problem – an arrangement called paired donation. Kidney paired donation matches one incompatible donor/recipient pair to someone else in the same situation, so that the donor of the first pair gives to the recipient of the second pair, and vice versa. In other words, the pairs swap kidneys as shown in the diagram below, so that their loved ones can still receive a kidney.

The average living donor kidney transplant functions for 15.5 years, which is typically twice as long as a deceased donor kidney. It is estimated that paired donation will one day allow for an additional 3000 transplants per year. Of all the advances in renal transplantation in the last 25 years, paired donation has the greatest potential to extend the lives of patients who have kidney disease.



OPPORTUNITY

Paired Donation can help. If you are a patient in need of a kidney and you have one or more willing but incompatible living kidney donors, you can participate in a paired donation program sponsored by the Alliance for Paired Donation (APD). This program uses a computer database to find other registered pairs who might be a match with you and your donor. To register for this program, please contact the transplant program at the nearest participating transplant hospital, or contact the APD directly at 877-273-4255. (For a list of participating centers, visit www.paireddonation.org.) If there is not a participating center in your area and you are willing to travel, you may still be able to enroll in the program.

When you contact the participating transplant center, you and your willing donor will be asked to provide a detailed medical history, and you will both be asked to undergo a number of medical tests. The program will be explained to you by a medical professional and you will be asked to sign a consent form stating that you understand and agree to participate in the program. About once a month (or more often) the computer program will search for other incompatible pairs who might be a good match for you. If the computer finds a potential match, a team of doctors and nurses from the participating transplant centers will determine whether or not to proceed with more advanced medical testing. If so, your incompatible donor will be scheduled for additional tests, often at the recipient's center. There is no cost to the donor for these medical tests. Travel may be required; if you qualify, financial assistance may be available to help with travel costs. Be sure to ask your coordinator for assistance if needed. Please note that some matches do not work out, once further testing is done. Even for those that do, it may take months to arrange the transplants because of the logistics of working with multiple patients and transplant centers.

PROCEDURE

Who can donate? If you are considering donating a kidney to your loved one, you should be between the ages of 18 and 75 and you must not have any of the following: high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, or kidney, heart, liver, or lung disease. Kidney donation is a serious decision, and you should weigh the risks and benefits carefully. While the procedure is very safe, as with any surgery, there are risks.

If you decide to proceed, you will need blood tests to rule out any viruses, and tissue typing to allow for precise matching. You will also need to have urine tests, and if you are over a certain age, tests to rule out certain common forms of cancer. After the first phase of testing is done, and assuming your results are normal, you will also need to have heart tests, x-rays, and an evaluation by the surgeon.

Surgery and recovery. Once it is determined that both pairs are able to undergo surgery, a date will be set for the operations. The recipient stays at his or her home transplant center, and the donor travels to have their surgery. In traditional paired exchanges, the surgeries happen on the same day at approximately the same time. All those involved will be asked prior to surgery whether or not they would like to meet the other pairs involved. If everyone agrees, a meeting will be arranged. If any one of you does not want to meet, every attempt will be made to respect your privacy, but chance encounters in the waiting room may not be avoidable. Recovery times for the donors and recipients will vary, but typically, most donors will be in the hospital two to seven days (depending on the type of surgery performed). Donors may return to work within four to six weeks or less. Generally, there are no long-term problems, although as with any surgery, complications can occur.

