



INF1866/1 – Introduction to Kidney transplantation and the Assessment and Recovery Centre (ARC)

Why am I being given this leaflet?

You have been chosen as someone who may be suitable to be offered a kidney transplant from an organ that has been tested in an assessment and recovery centre (ARC). Each year more than 350 kidneys are not transplanted because of concerns about whether they will work after transplant. We have started a pilot scheme to see whether testing these kidneys in ARCs can increase the number that are transplanted.

What is an ARC kidney?

An Assessment and Recovery Centre, ARC for short, is a place where donor organs not felt suitable to be immediately transplanted can be further assessed using a machine designed to support the organ outside the body. If you are offered an ARC kidney, it will have been pumped at body temperature using a specially designed device (machine perfusion). The kidney will have undergone tests during the machine perfusion to make sure it will work after the transplant.

Why is an ARC kidney an option for me?

We know that having a transplant gives a better quality of life than being on dialysis, but there is a shortage of donor organs. Being on the waiting list for a long time can sometimes mean that by the time a kidney is available patients are too unwell to have the operation. By testing kidneys in the ARC we can reduce the number that are not used and can transplant more patients and improve outcomes. You have been selected as someone who would benefit from having a transplant as soon as possible.

Is there a chance the kidney will not work?

The chance that a kidney will not work is very small (<5% or 5 in 100) which means that more than 95 of every 100 kidneys are working 1 year after transplant. The tests that we carry out at the ARC are based on results from kidneys tested and transplanted in clinical trials using machine perfusion. These trials have been successful and have already benefited patients. However, this pilot is a new initiative and so quantifying the risks accurately is not yet possible.

What do I need to do next?



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If you would like to be considered for an ARC kidney, then you do not have to do anything further, you will automatically be eligible. If you do not want to be considered for an ARC kidney, then you can 'opt-out' by contacting the transplant team by telephone or email (details below). This will not affect you being offered a kidney from the standard offering pathway.

If you would like to discuss the kidney ARC in more detail with a member of the clinical team, then please let us know and we will organize an appointment for you.

Giving your consent

If you are offered an ARC kidney, you will be informed by the clinical team by telephone and when you attend the transplant centre they will discuss the risks and benefits with you and answer any questions or concerns you may have. If you would like to accept the offer then the signed consent will be taken on the day of surgery.

The information in this leaflet is about kidney transplantation using ARC kidneys. It is in addition to the "Introduction of Organ Assessment and Recovery Centres for Lung, Kidney and Liver Transplantation in the UK" which should also be read, as it gives a more detailed overview of ARCs.