

Case study:

Charles Obadiaru





Meet Charles

Charles Obadiaru is 15 years old and lives in Hertfordshire. He was born with prune belly syndrome and had a kidney transplant when he was seven years old.

Prune belly syndrome (also referred to as abdominal muscle deficiency syndrome) led to Charles' kidneys being unable to adequately filter waste products from the blood. He received dialysis treatment for the first four years of his life.

He was transferred to Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) and three years later a perfect match donor was found, enabling Charles to have a kidney transplant.

On average, Black and Asian patients wait almost a year longer for a kidney transplant than white patients, due to a shortage of donors and the lack of suitable organs. Blood and tissue types need to match for a successful transplant and organs from people from the same ethnic background are more likely to be a close match.

Charles was no exception. But when the time came, the transplant was a success.

Charles has grown physically fitter and stronger, and this year competed in his second Transplant Games as a key member of the GOSH Renal Team. He came away with a bronze medal in table tennis and gold in the adult cycling 5km time trials. Charles now leads a completely normal life and has set his sights on a place at university, where he wants to study engineering.

He is unable to personally thank the donor for transforming his life, but would like to meet or speak to the donor family one day.

To find out more about Charles' story watch the film at organdonation.nhs.uk/education

