

Answer ALL questions.

Some questions must be answered with a cross . If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box and then mark your new answer with a cross .

- 1 Read the passage below. Use the information in the passage and your own knowledge to answer the questions that follow.

Kidney transplants

The main role of the kidneys is to filter waste products from the blood. If the kidneys lose this ability, waste products can build up, which could lead to death. This loss of kidney function, known as kidney failure, is the most common reason for needing a kidney transplant.

- 5 It is possible to use a kidney machine to partially perform the functions of the kidney, using a blood filtering procedure known as dialysis. However, this can be inconvenient and it takes a long time. A kidney transplant is a better solution for kidney failure whenever possible.

- 10 A kidney transplant is suitable for people of all ages who need to have one, if they are fit enough for surgery. If a patient has an infection this will need to be cured before the transplant. The person who receives the transplant must agree to continue with the recommended treatments after the transplant. These treatments include taking medication known as immunosuppressant drugs.

- 15 People have two kidneys, but they can survive well with only one kidney. This means it is possible for a person to donate a kidney while they are alive. This is known as a living donation. People who want to be considered as a living donor are carefully tested to make sure they are a suitable donor and are fit for the operation needed to remove a kidney. Living donations are best from a close relative as this reduces the risk of the body rejecting the kidney. In the United Kingdom, the number of living donations in 2020 was 1040. In 2021 the number of living donations was 429.

- 25 Kidney donations are also possible from people who have recently died. This is known as deceased kidney donation. However, this type of kidney donation has a slightly lower chance of long-term success. In the United Kingdom, the number of deceased donations in 2020 was 2283. In 2021 the number of deceased donations was 1836.

- 30 People who need a kidney transplant, but do not have a suitable living donor, will have to wait until a suitable deceased donor kidney becomes available. In the United Kingdom, the average waiting time for a deceased donor kidney transplant is between 30 months and 36 months.

Kidney donors are particularly required from people of non-white ethnic origin, as kidney disease is more common in people of South Asian, African and Afro-Caribbean ethnic origin. However, there are not many donors from these communities.

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- 35 When a person receives a kidney from a living donor, this is a carefully planned operation. If they are waiting for a deceased donor kidney, they will be contacted when a suitable kidney becomes available. The patient then has surgery to insert the new kidney and connect it to their blood vessels and bladder. The new kidney will be placed in the lower part of the abdomen. The patient's own failed kidneys
- 40 will usually be left in place.

