

15th Annual Congress on

Kidney: Nephrology & Therapeutics

August 28-30, 2017 Philadelphia, USA

Bariatric surgery for obese live kidney donors: An analysis of risks and benefits

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Background & Aim: Obesity can be a barrier to live donor selection and there are reports of obese live kidney donors (OLKDs) undergoing bariatric surgery prior to donation. While this practice has potential promise, the risks associated with it are unclear. Thus, our aim was to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of this practice.

Design: Risks and benefits were ascertained from the literature. Analysis of costs and benefits was performed to provide objective data for each scenario.

Results: Live kidney donation is associated with superior outcomes compared to deceased donation. However, live donors are at risk of complications that could be exacerbated by obesity. Higher donor body mass index (BMI) has been associated with inferior recipient outcomes. Bariatric surgery (BS) results in decreased mortality and can induce sustained weight loss. Our cost-benefit analysis revealed a benefit-to-cost ratio of 3.64 for BS prior to live donation by OLKDs. We found ratios of 3.19 and 0.97 for live donation with an obese donor and a deceased donor, respectively.

Conclusions: Our results suggest that BS for an OLKD has the potential to increase the number of live donors and improve outcomes. However, more data is required; thus we recommend a registry of patients who have undergone both procedures.

Biography

Jorge Ortiz has completed his Residency in General Surgery at North Shore University Hospital. He did his Fellowship at the University of Miami Jackson Memorial Hospital. He is currently an Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Toledo, College of Medicine and Life Sciences. He has published dozens of papers in reputed journals.

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