

# Knowledge and attitudes towards kidney donation and transplantation among Filipino patients in a tertiary hospital's outpatient department

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**Background:** According to the Global Burden of Disease, chronic kidney disease (CKD) is one of the leading causes of worldwide mortality with global estimated prevalence of 13.4%. Patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) needing renal replacement therapy is estimated between 4.902 and 7.083 million. Two treatment options are kidney transplantation (KT) and dialysis. Renal transplant being superior due to its positive impact on life expectancy and quality of life. In the Philippines, over 7,000 ESRD patients are on the renal transplant waiting lists according to the National Kidney and Transplant Institute. Only about 2,500 kidneys had been transplanted since 1963 despite the proven survival advantage and cause effectiveness of KT due to lack of knowledge and negative attitude towards organ donation.

**Methods:** The researchers administered a structured questionnaire to 372 participants in a tertiary hospital's outpatient unit in the Philippines from April to June, 2023. Data were statistically analyzed using SPSS ver. 25. Relationship between socio-demographic profile, knowledge/attitudes towards kidney donation and transplantation was examined using chi-square. Logistic regression was employed to identify independent predictors. Descriptive statistics were utilized to analyze socio-demographic variables and identify patterns. The prevalence of registered organ donors were determined as percentage.

**Results:** The study revealed poor knowledge (53.20%, n=198) and negative attitudes (50.30%, n=187) towards kidney donation and transplantation among the respondents. Only 0.30% (n=1) were registered organ donors, while 27.7% (n=103) expressed willingness to register. Concerns about surgery (36.6%) and posttransplant medical treatment (38.2%) were evident. The analysis of factors associated with knowledge levels towards kidney donation and transplantation revealed significant associations with education, employment status, monthly family income, and willingness to register as an organ donor.

**Conclusions:** The study highlights the need for improved education and awareness programs to address misconceptions and enhance knowledge about kidney donation and transplantation among Filipino patients.

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