

ETHNIC DIFFERENCES IN THE LIKELIHOOD OF LIVING KIDNEY DONATION AMONG REGISTERED POTENTIAL DONORS

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BACKGROUND: Tonelli et al (KI, 2007) have reported that South Asian and East Asian Canadian ESRD patients are 58% and 73% less likely to receive a living donor kidney transplant, but the reasons for lower living donation among South and East Asian Canadians remains unclear.

METHODS: We identified all n=2,368 individuals who registered as directed potential living kidney donors within our program between 2000-2008 and compared their likelihood of proceeding with kidney donation and reasons for non-donation as a function of ethnicity. All registered potential donors were stratified into the following 3 groups: South Asians (n=225,9%); East Asians (n=156, 7%); Other (n=1987,24%).

RESULTS: Compared to non-Asians, South and East Asian potential donors were younger, included more females, and were more likely to be related to their intended recipients ($p<0.001$). South Asians were the least likely to proceed to donation (crude donor conversion ratio of 10%), while East Asians were the most likely (19%), followed by non-Asians (17%), ($p<0.001$). Compared to non-Asians, more South and East Asians were excluded from donating due to ABO/HLA incompatibility, whereas fewer South Asians were found medically or psychologically unsuitable to donate (Table).

CONCLUSIONS: South Asians who registered as potential living donors were half as likely to actually donate compared to East Asians and non-Asians. ABO and HLA incompatibility rather than medical suitability appears to be a greater barrier for both South and East Asians, suggesting that initiatives to promote kidney paired donation or ABO incompatible donation may be especially effective in increasing donation in these populations.