

## Living Donor Kidney Transplant Live Webcast

April 21st at 3 p.m. CDT at Methodist University Hospital

A live webcast of a living donor kidney transplant by an internationally-renowned team of physicians will air on April 21, presenting an opportunity for anyone with access to a computer to see the procedure and what it means to be a living kidney donor.

The procedure, performed at [Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute](#) in Memphis, Tenn., will be [available on the Web](#) in real time to viewers across the globe beginning at 4 p.m. (Eastern Time).

One major reason officials at Methodist University Hospital want this life-giving procedure made available to the public is because of the tremendous demand for kidneys. More than 61,000 people are waiting for a kidney, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). Many of those patients will have a long wait, on average from three to five years, before they find a match. One reason for the long wait is because there are not enough living donors. In an effort to highlight, educate, and encourage potential donors to consider becoming an actual donor, the Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute, which is affiliated with the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, is presenting this live webcast.

"We hope by airing this live on the Web, showing what the procedure consists of and explaining what it means to be a living kidney donor, we can provide an impetus to have more donors step forward," said Barry Marshall, administrator for the Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute. "There are never enough organs, and the gap between people who need a kidney and deceased donors continues to widen and will continue to widen."

Kidney transplantation is now considered a proactive treatment option for patients who have been diagnosed with kidney disease prior to reaching dialysis treatment.

"To give someone a kidney before they have to start dialysis is to give back to them their quality of life," said A. Osama Gaber, program director for the Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute and professor of transplantation surgery at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. "It's their best chance at extending life."

Choosing transplantation before a patient reaches the dialysis stage increases the need for living donorship. Methodist expects an international audience for the webcast. While the target is a combination of doctors and those with a vested interest in kidney transplants, it is anticipated that there will be many viewers who are simply curious.

About the webcast

Viewers may [log on](#) for free Thursday, April 21, at 4 p.m. Eastern, 3 p.m. Central, 1 p.m. Pacific, 9 p.m. London and 5 a.m. Tokyo (April 22) to [watch the living donor kidney transplant live](#). During the webcast, viewers will learn more about kidney

transplants and about being a living kidney donor. Viewers will also be able to e-mail their questions and receive answers.

The live webcast will last one hour. The entire surgery will take longer (between two to three hours for each donor and recipient). The portion being shown will include the removal of the donor kidney and the transplantation into the recipient.

A recording of the webcast will remain on the Web site for one year for those who missed the live broadcast, and as a reference and educational tool.

The transplant team

A. Osama Gaber, M.D., program director for the Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute and professor of transplantation surgery at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), will narrate the procedure and answer questions that viewers e-mail.

Nosratollah Nezakatgoo, M.D., a transplant surgeon with the Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute and assistant professor of surgery at UTHSC, will remove the kidney from the living donor.

Santiago Vera, M.D., a transplant surgeon with the Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute and professor of surgery at UTHSC, will transplant the kidney into the recipient.

Hosein Shokouh-Amiri, M.D., a transplant surgeon with the Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute and professor of surgery at UTHSC, will participate in the pre-taped portion of the webcast.

M. Francesca Egidi, M.D., transplant physician with the Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute and professor of medicine at UTHSC.

A team of physicians, nurses and other professionals will assist during the live webcast. It takes a team of 50 to 60 physicians, nurses and other professionals to perform a kidney transplant from the beginning of the donation process to the time the surgery is completed.

About Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute  
[Methodist University Transplant Institute](#) is nationally known for its success with kidney, liver, kidney-pancreas, pancreas, and islet transplants. Previously housed at UT Bowld Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., the program is dedicated to improving the quality of life and the life expectancy for its transplant patients through research breakthroughs, excellence in surgical techniques and meticulous post-operative care. The institute was moved to Methodist University Hospital in July 2004 so research and patient care could continue to grow. In 2004, Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute performed 81 kidney transplants; 21 were living donor kidney transplants.

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