

Transplantation Through The Decades



Introduction

The first deceased donor kidney transplant was performed in New South Wales at Prince Henry Hospital on August 5th 1965. Since 1965 the unit has been involved in kidney transplantation of both adults and children and provides a transplant service from the harbour bridge to the South Coast. The aim of this poster is to share the experiences of patients who have been transplanted within at Prince Henry / Prince of Wales Hospital within the last 50 years.

Methods

A series of open ended questions were used to explore the patients experiences. These interviews were taped and video recorded and then transcribed verbatim.

Narrative inquiry was used to map the stories of 49 transplant recipients and their experiences of waiting for the call and the impact the following transplant had on their lives. Stories were collected from patients who had been transplanted between 1965 – 15 through semi structured interview. The narrative approach advanced by Clandinin and Connelly (2000) was used to guide data analysis. This involved the examination of three aspects of the narrative: interaction, continuity and place. The objective was to explore people's recollection of when the call came and how a kidney transplant has transformed their life.

1965 - 74

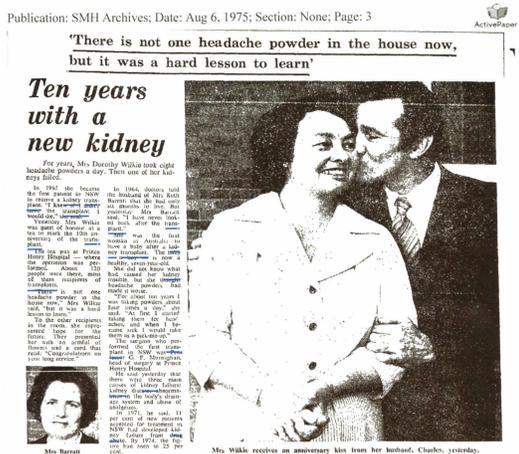
Just before my 21st birthday I made 3 wishes: to get a transplant, to get married and to travel.

I received my fourth transplant in October 75. I can remember we had to do a 24 hour urine collection every day and then empty the urine into a bottle.

I was just getting ready to put myself on the machine when the call came, it was a Sunday night, The doctor asked whether I had started to use the heparin yet.

1975 - 84

Prince Henry was like a second home, the new transplant area had been open for a little while. When I first started dialysis, the transplants were looked after in a room at the back of the ward



1985 - 94

When I received the call for my 5th transplant I wasn't that excited I had been through it all before.

My first 4 kidney transplants were a breeze compared to the last.

The food was always terrible and the staff were always great

It was 2 in the morning, the registrar rang me and I didn't believe him, I said you wouldn't ring me in this state would you but obviously they do.

Boy aged 3 gets father's kidney

SYDNEY: A three-year-old boy suffering from a rare kidney disorder has been given one of his father's kidneys in a transplant operation in Sydney.

Christopher McLeod was suffering from medullar cystic disease, said to affect only one in 20 million people, which would have killed his kidney functions in early childhood, transplant surgeon Dr John Frawley said yesterday.

He was given a kidney from his father, Mr Neil McLeod, in an operation on Tuesday at Sydney's Prince Henry Hospital.

1995 - 2005

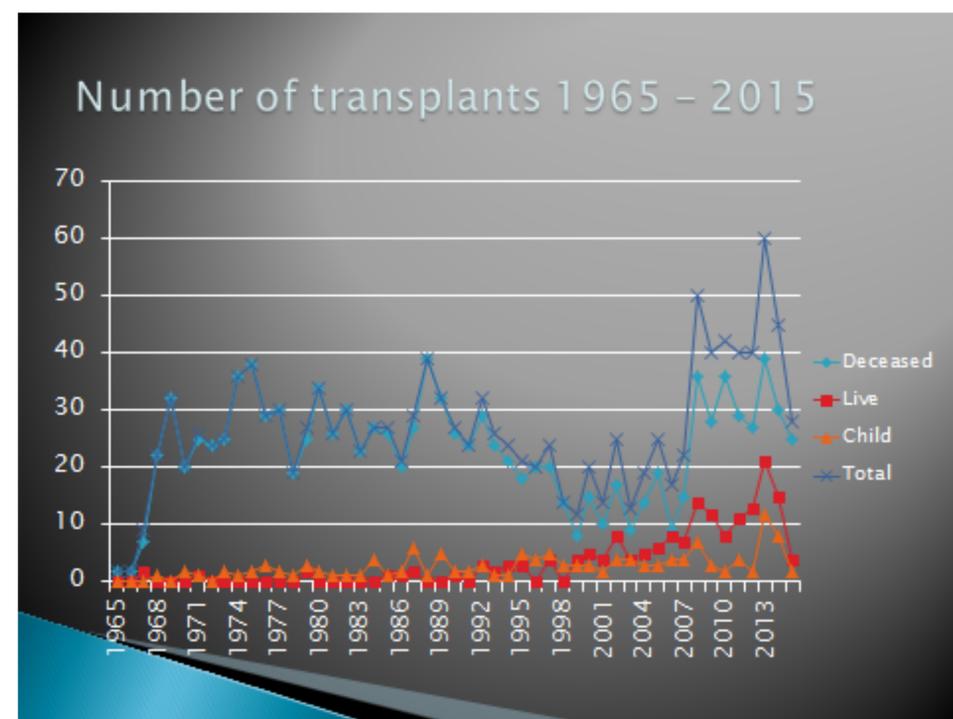
When the call came for my first transplant I thought it was hoax, I hung up on them 3 times. They finally rang my father.

I was mentally prepared for a wait of 3 – 4 years before I received a kidney, however getting a call within 6 months of starting was beyond all expectations

I was on dialysis for about 3 – 4 years before I got the call. I had always dialysed at home and continued to work fulltime. The call came at about 2 am, it was the registrar who rang, the feeling was surreal.

When I arrived on the ward it was like a party atmosphere, I think the nurses were more excited than I was.

2006 - 15



Through the interviews it became clear that not only could the patients remember what they were doing when the call came but also recall the time of day the call came and who called them. The majority of participants commented that receiving a transplant had been a transformative experience. To us the interviewers it was a humbling and emotional journey through the decades with the transplant recipients.