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An update on minimally invasive donor nephrectomy

Living kidney donation was revolutionized in 1996, when the first laparoscopic donor nephrectomy was performed. With over 100,000 patients currently awaiting a kidney transplant in the United States alone, the need to increase the kidney donor pool is of the utmost importance. The number of living kidney transplants significantly rose shortly after laparoscopic donor nephrectomy gained acceptance and reached its peak in 2004. In the past 5 years, however, a slow decline in living kidney donation has occurred. The minimally invasive approach towards donor nephrectomy has undergone steady improvement over the last 15 years. Laparoscopic donor nephrectomy has become the gold standard procedure and multiple large series have demonstrated excellent donor safety and recipient outcomes. Recent innovations include robotic-assisted procedures, retroperitoneal approach and trans-vaginal extraction. Furthermore, the intra-operative management of living kidney donors has undergone changes, with volume loading, diuretic use, anticoagulation and pain control regimens all being studied. Finally, data has emerged to complement the predominantly short-term outcomes published on living kidney donors, with a greater understanding of long-term effects after kidney donation.

Biography

Edward Chin is an Associate Professor of Surgery and the Surgical Director for Living Donor Nephrectomy at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. He received his undergraduate degree at Dartmouth College and graduated a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Society from the SUNY Stony Brook School of Medicine. He completed his surgical residency and fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery at the Mount Sinai Medical Center. For over a decade, he focused his practice on minimally invasive surgery. He has published and presented extensively on multiple topics in the field of general surgery. He is also the Surgical Director of Mount Sinai's Gastrointestinal Motility Center and holds leadership positions in multiple administrative and quality improvement committees. His interest in living donor nephrectomy has been a constant passion throughout his career. Participating in the care of such a special patient population has been enormously rewarding.

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