



Advanced Kidney Donation for a Sensitized Transplant Candidate: A Case Study

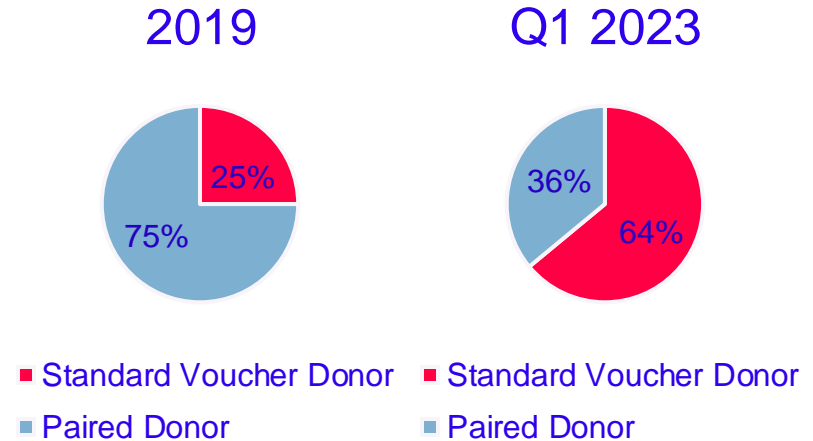
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Introduction

Voucher donations are on the rise, but is donating in advance right for everyone?

- Donors in the National Kidney Registry accounted for 20% of the living donor transplants in the U.S. in 2022.
- Rapid increase in voucher utilization
- 6 voucher patients in NKR with cPRA 99.99-100% waiting >1 year.

(NKR Quarterly Report Q4 2022)

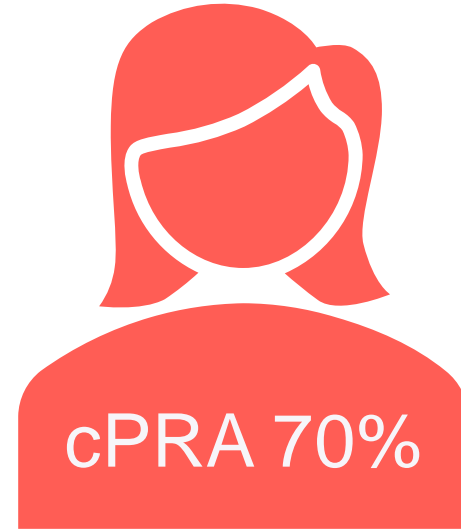


(Excludes KFL Internal Direct)

Case Profile

Transplant Candidate

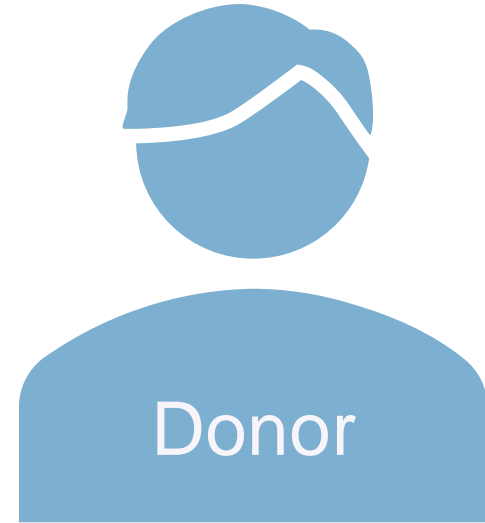
- 23-year-old female
- Congenital renal dysplasia
- 2 prior transplants
- Calculated panel reactive antibodies (cPRA) at time of listing was 70%



Case Profile

Living Donor Candidate

- 31-year-old male
- Active lifestyle
- Social media contact
- Incompatible – multiple DSAs
- Interested in paired donation



Kidney Paired Donation

- Donor Education:
 - Unknown wait to find a match
 - Possibility of never finding a match

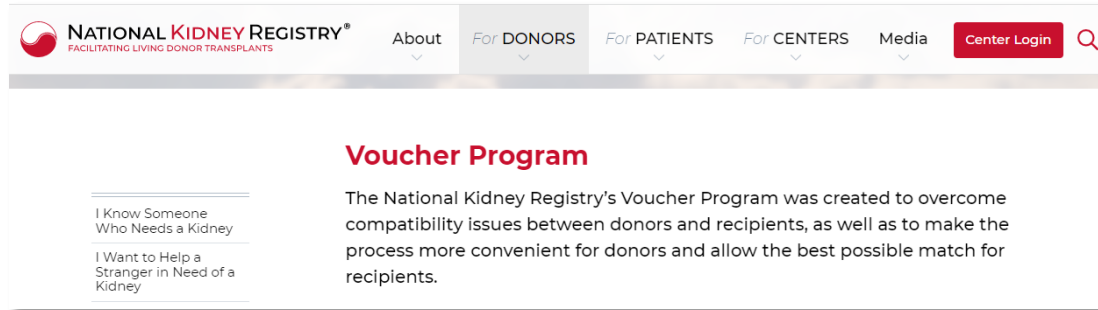
Requested advanced donation to allow recovery in time for ski season.



NKR Voucher Program

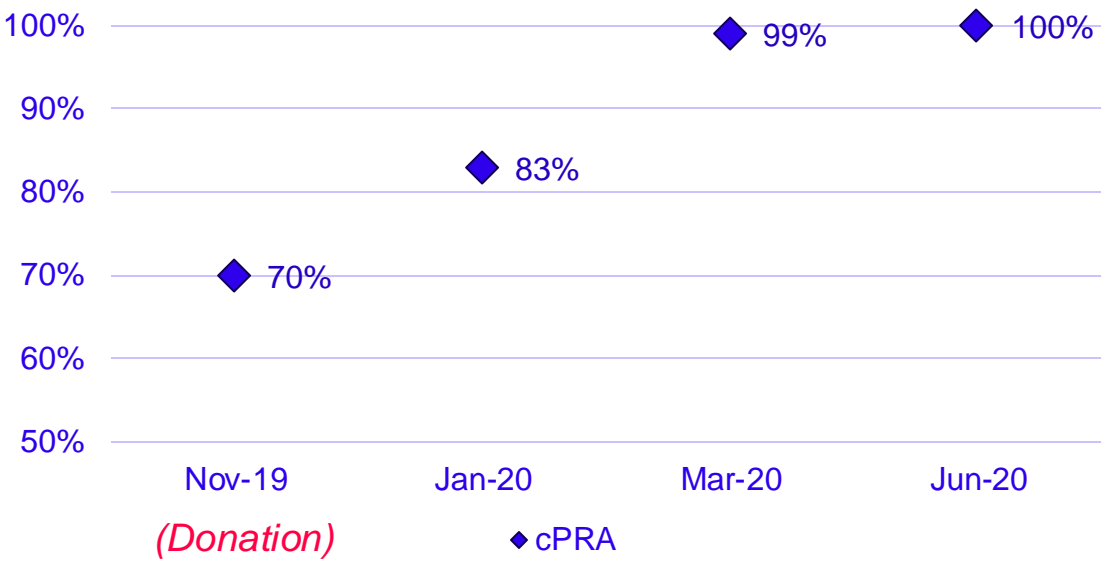
Donation in advance of recipient's activation.

Allows donor to specify timeframe.



Proceeded with standard voucher donation in November 2019.

cPRA After Advanced Donation



The Wait

- Donor and voucher holder became friends
- Patient's fiancé very motivated to help facilitate a transplant
- Repeated education about challenges w/100% cPRA
- Donor completes post-donation follow-up
- Voucher holder pursues dual-listing
- Dialysis access increasingly limited



Was advanced donation appropriate?

Three Years Later...

PRA drops to 97%

- Low-eplet mismatch becomes available in NKR
- Voucher holder successfully transplanted



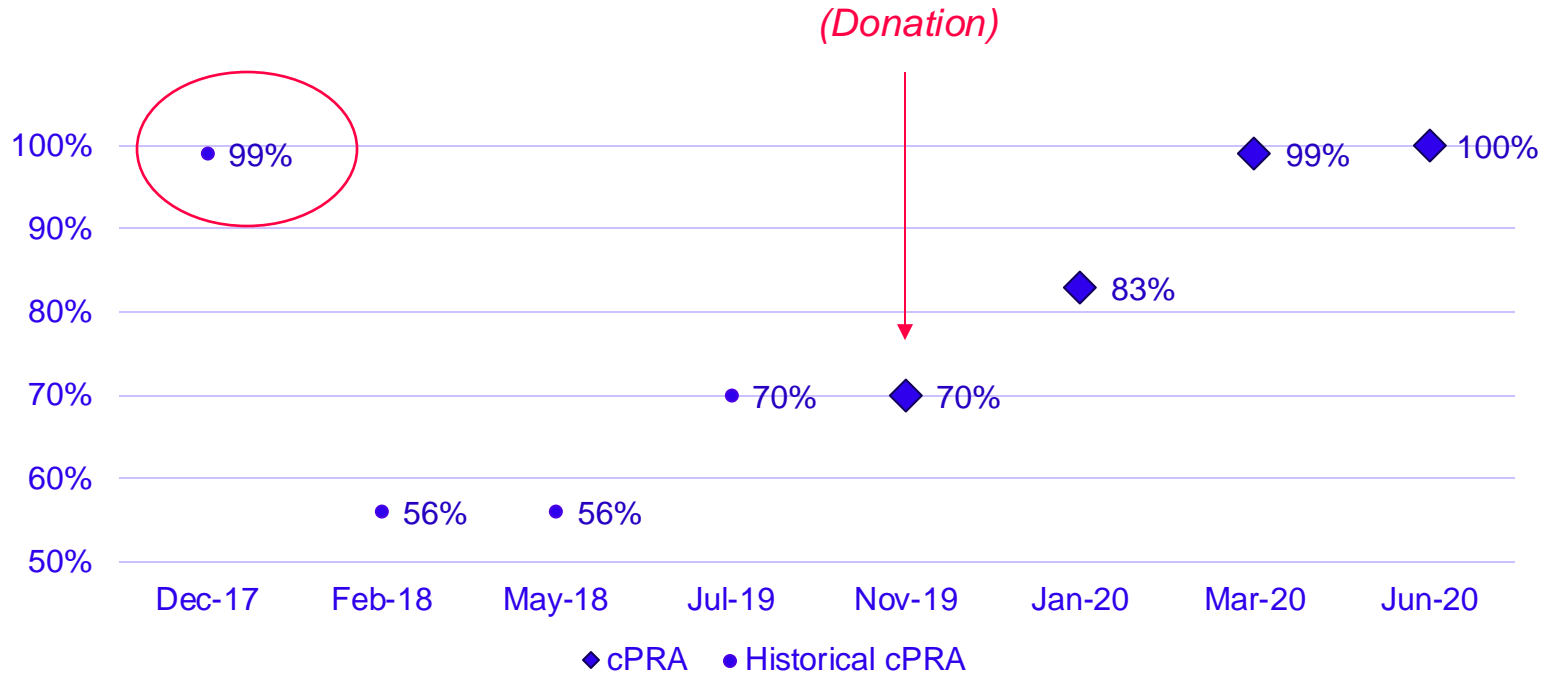
Was the donor informed of the risks (and benefits) of advanced donation?

After stating his understanding of the risks, did he still want to proceed?



Yes.

In Hindsight:



Discussion

- Comprehensive patient education is imperative:
 - Donor: The recipient might never find a match
 - Voucher Recipient: No guarantee of a transplant
 - cPRA can fluctuate over time
 - Highly sensitized patients receive priority on deceased donor waiting list
- NKR has revised voucher program policies:
 - Now allows more than one voucher holder
 - Currently not transferrable

Conclusion

- Advanced donation is a great option for many donors
- Risk remains that the gift of a voucher may never be realized as intended
 - Some donors may not be comfortable with the risk or may feel regret
- In all cases (but especially with sensitized patients), both the donor and recipient should be well-informed about the risks and limitations of the voucher program
- Proactive discussion and preparation benefits everyone involved when unexpected situations occur.
 - Donor and voucher holder
 - Transplant team

References

- “Quarterly Report Q4 2022”, National Kidney Registry.
- “Donor Autonomy and Self-Sacrifice in Living Organ Donation: An Ethical Legal and Psychological Aspects of Transplantation (ELPAT) View”, Nizam Mamode, et al. in *Transplant International*, March 2022.
- “Dissolving Disincentives to Living Kidney Donation”, Jean Colaneri et al., in *Nephrology Nursing Journal*, September-October, 2021.