

A SURVEY OF DIALYSIS PATIENTS ATTITUDES ON ORGAN DONATION AND KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION IN A TURKISH COMMUNITY

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Objectives:

The most outstanding of renal replacement therapy is kidney transplantation (KT). However, there is no adequate information about dialysis patients' thoughts on KT. This study investigated the opinions of chronic dialysis patients about KT.

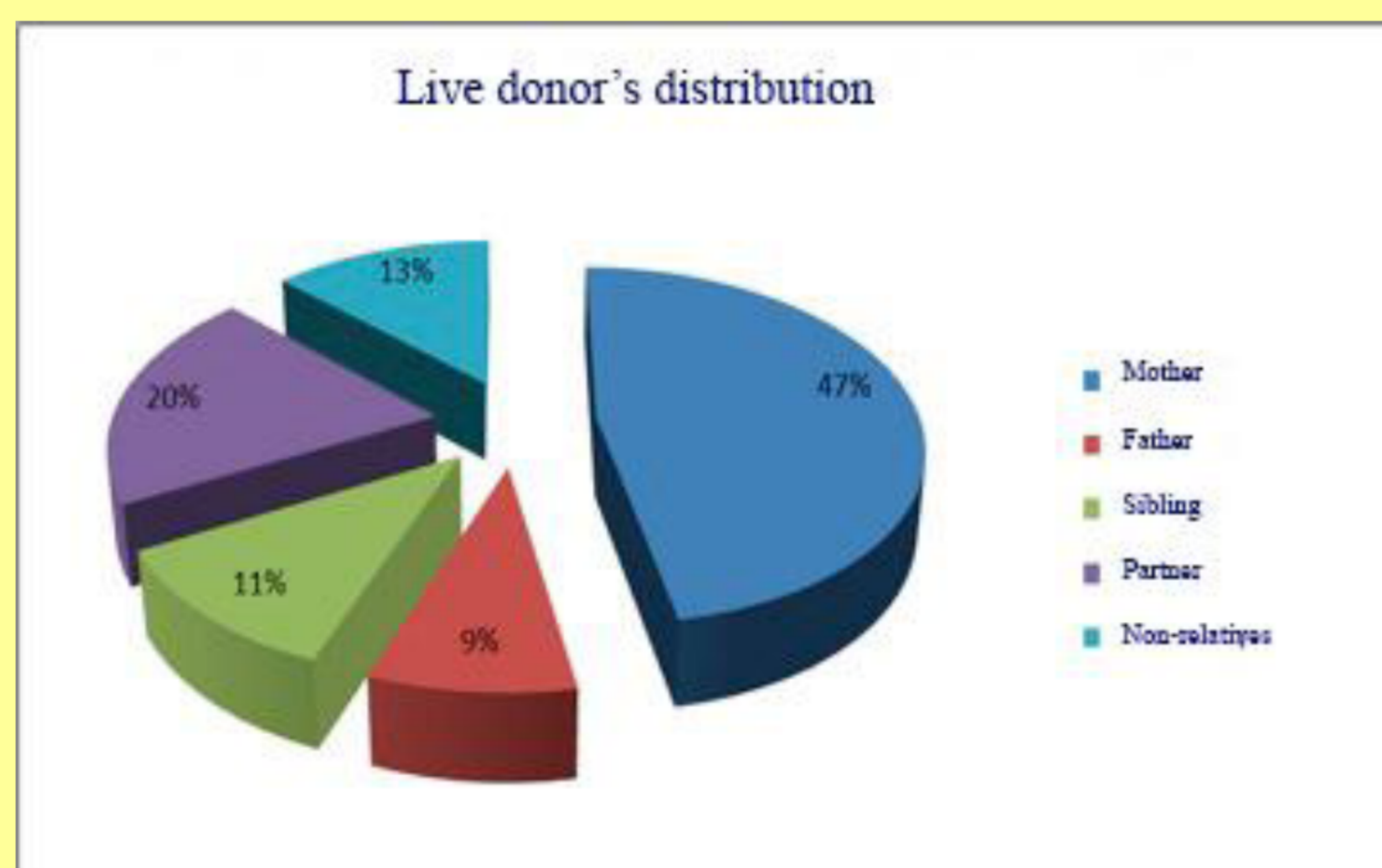
Methods:

The study was performed in all dialysis centers in Bursa, Turkey, from January to December 2010. The response rate was 40%. 597 dialysis patients (547 on HD, 50 PD) were included in the study. We designed a questionnaire with many questions on attitudes toward organ donation and KT. The questionnaires were filled out in the course of face-to-face interviews by the same author.

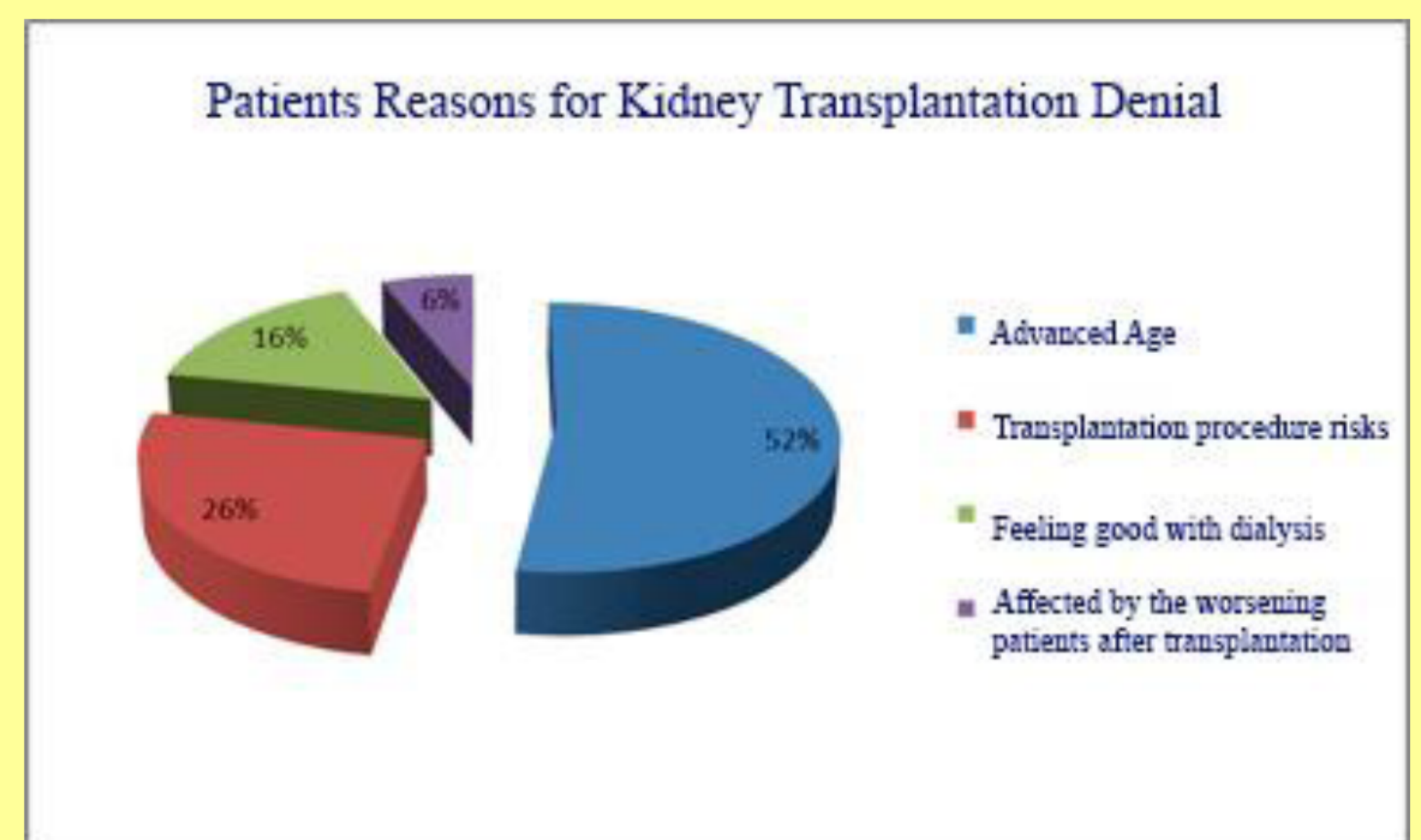
Results:

Chronic dialysis patients who wants KT was 414 (69.3%) and did not want KT was 183 (30.7%). Totally, 31 patients (14 -2.3%- had live donor KT and 17 -2.8%- had cadaveric KT) had a history of KT. While 60 patients (10%) did not want to have KT, 299 of them (50.1%) wants to receive from live donors and 238 of them (39.9%) wanted to receive from cadaveric donor. 70 (11.7%) patients had a live donor. Specification of live donor candidates stated in Graphic 2. Patients registered in the waiting list are 179 (30%) and the average waiting time of 2.84 ± 2.1 years. While 90 of waiting list patients was stated that they did not called for any donors, 32 of them stated that they were called but they were found not suitable for KT had 55 of them did not know the reason why they were not transplanted. While 212 patients (35.5%) wanted to donate their organs, 385 (64.5%) patients did not want. 342 (57.3%) patients thought that they could save the lives of other people by their bodies. Others states that they were on dialysis and their organs were not robust anymore. Dialysis because of kidney disease and solid organ others had already noted that entered. 38 (6.4%) patients' relatives prepared organ donor card (10 mothers, 7 fathers, 10 siblings, seven wives and 4 others).

Live donor's distribution



Patients Reasons for Kidney Transplantation Denial



Conclusions:

In spite of improvements in graft and patient survival rates, the number of cadaveric organ KT has not reached the desired level, and the number of patients on the waiting lists is increasing rapidly. Organ donation and KT will become our major concern in the very near future. As a result, dialysis patients are more informed for this issues. Organized training programs about KT should be organized for dialysis patients.

