

# Blood Group Type Incompatible (ABOi) Kidney Transplants

Information for patients and families

St. Michael's  
Inspired Care.  
Inspiring Science.

This document describes a very specific type of kidney transplant. The purpose is to outline the benefits and risks of receiving a kidney from a donor with a blood group that is completely different to your own.

Before you agree to participate in this type of transplant, it is important that you read and understand how this type of transplant works. If you have any questions, be sure they are answered before you agree to participate.

This type of transplant is one option available to you. If you do not feel that this is the right choice for you, there are other options available which might be better suited to you and your situation.

## What is the purpose of an ABOi transplant?

In the past it was important to have a match between the blood group of the donor (person giving the kidney) and the recipient (person receiving the kidney). If there was not a match between blood types, the recipient's immune system would make antibodies to attack the transplanted kidney. This would cause the recipient to reject the kidney of the donor.

Through a process called immunoadsorption, it is safe to receive a kidney from a donor who does not match in blood group type. The immunoadsorption procedure uses a special Glycosorb® column (filter) to remove blood group antibodies and prevent the rejection of the donor kidney.

## What risks are there with this procedure?

The biggest risk with this procedure is an allergic reaction to the immunoadsorption procedure. It is possible to receive medication prior to the treatment that might lower the risk of an allergic reaction.

Other possible side effects include: dizziness, nausea, feeling cold, a tingling feeling in your fingers and lips. A registered nurse will check your blood pressure, pulse, temperature and calcium levels during the procedures.

There is also a risk of infection. It is important to keep the dialysis line clean. Special protective bandages cover the line to keep it clean.

In certain situations, it may not be possible to reduce the antibodies to acceptable levels. In this case, the transplant may be cancelled until more treatments are provided. In some circumstances, the transplant doctor may decide that additional treatments may not be the best treatment option and will discuss alternatives with you.

## Can I withdraw from the ABOi transplant?

Your participation is strictly voluntary and you may withdraw at any time.

## Who should I contact for more information?

The primary contact person is the living donor transplant coordinator at St. Michael's Hospital. 416 867-3676.

St. Michael's cares about your health. For reliable health information, visit our Patient and Family Learning Centre in the 6th floor Marketeria (Cardinal Carter Wing), or find us online at [www.stmichaelshospital.com/learn](http://www.stmichaelshospital.com/learn)

This information is not intended as a substitute for professional medical care. Ask your healthcare provider about this information if you have questions.