

An investigation of post-traumatic growth experiences among living kidney donors

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Abstract

More than 1 million patients are estimated to have undergone transplantation in the past years. In recent years, living-donor kidney transplantation accounted for more than 50% of all transplantations. Kidney transplantation from living donors is regarded as a contradictory case to the “Do no harm” principle as a major surgical intervention is performed on a normal and healthy person at the expense of recovery of the organ recipient. The purpose of this study was to investigate positive psychological experiences, specifically post-traumatic growth (PTG), among living kidney donors. The sample consisted of a total of 184 kidney donors. The age of donors ranged between 21-76 (mean, 50.76; SD, 10.93). In this study 67.9% of donors were female. The recipients on dialysis group had higher scores than the recipients who did not have dialysis; the mean difference was significant on the subscales of change in life philosophy, change in relationships, change in self-perception, and in the PTGI score. The donors with higher education levels received higher scores on the subscale of change in relationships in comparison with donors with low education. The donors who were married and older than 51 years had higher scores than donors who were not married or younger on the subscale of change in self-perception. This is a single center study; this center performs more than 500 kidney transplantations per year. There is a good system and experience at each step before and after transplantation for donor and recipient and relatives. It is a really big potential trauma to donate a kidney to your relative; you can change this negative effect to a positive effect with a good system. The present study also showed that when compared with the scale’s absolute midpoint, kidney donors in the study sample experienced moderate-to-high levels of PTG.

Biography

Levent Yucetin is the Director of Antalya Medical Park Transplant Center Coordination. He studied and trained in Oxford, Cambridge, Hare-field transplant centers, Barcelona University and TPM organization between 1999 and 2001. He was the President of Turkish Transplant Coordinator's Society between 2005 and 2009, National Key Member of ETCO between 2002 and 2012 and served as Turkey's leader for European Union projects ETPOD, ELIPSY, LIDOPS and ODEQUS. He is a Member of Turkish Health Ministry's Transplant Coordinators and Organ Donation board and a trainer of transplant coordinators at Health Ministry Certification organization. He has published more than 29 papers in reputed journals and 10 chapters in 4 reputed books.