

Masterclasses

M11.2 Renal Medicine**10:45 Room 221**

Paired Kidney Exchange in Renal Transplantation

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Kidney transplantation is the best therapy for end-stage renal failure. Similar to the global counterparts, Hong Kong is facing the challenge of severe shortage in kidney donation. Despite tremendous efforts to promote organ donation, the number of donated transplantable kidneys remain disappointingly low. As a result, a progressive increase in the number of patients on the waiting list.

There are less than 100 kidney transplants each year for the past five years in Hong Kong and the average waiting time for a deceased kidney graft is more than six years. The statistics show a significant gap between the number of kidneys donated and the number of patients on the wait list.

Amid the difficulty to secure sufficient number of deceased kidneys, one of the strategies running successfully worldwide is to expand the living donor pool. With the sophisticated advancement in medical skills and technology, living donor donation is a safe and mature procedure. However, the major obstacles of living kidney donation are ABO incompatibility and positive cross-match between potential donor and recipient.

Will the Paired Kidney Exchange (PKE) Programme offer an additional transplant option for the donor-recipient pairs? The PKE Programme aims to increase the chance of finding a compatible living donated kidney by exchange between incompatible pairs.