

123 Wife Donates Kidney

June 9, 2008

Intro: At any given time, up to 60-thousand people are waiting for kidney transplants. But unfortunately, there are not enough donor organs to meet that demand. That's where living-donor kidney transplantation can make a big difference. More on what it means to be a living donor from a couple who went through the process at Mayo Clinic.

Video

Total running time 1:42

CG :08 to :14

Scott Jablonow

Lost kidney

Audio

31 YEARS AGO SCOTT JABLONOW

LEARNED THAT LIFE CAN CHANGE

IN AN INSTANT. FOR HIM IT

HAPPENED AT A CAR WASH.

“THE OWNER OF THE CAR WASH

WAS PULLING A CAR OFF THE LINE

AND LOST CONTROL AND HIT ME IN

THE BACK. I LOST MY LEFT

KIDNEY.”

AND DAMAGED HIS OTHER ONE.

SCOTT SPENT WEEKS IN THE

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT AND THEN

ON KIDNEY DIALYSIS.

“WHEN I WAS AN OUTPATIENT ON

DIALYSIS, THAT’ S WHEN I MET

CG :29 to :35
Ellen Jablonow
Scott's wife

ELLEN.”

“I WALKED INTO THE ROOM AND
SCOTT WAS HOOKED UP ON
KIDNEY DIALYSIS AND FIRST LOOK
– I FELL MADLY IN LOVE.”

SCOTT AND ELLEN HAVE BEEN
TOGETHER 30 YEARS. AND MOST
OF THAT TIME SCOTT'S KIDNEY
FUNCTIONED WELL AND DID NOT
NEED DIALYSIS. BUT RECENTLY IT
BEGAN TO FAIL. HIS OPTIONS? GO
BACK ON DIALYSIS OR UNDERGO A
KIDNEY TRANSPLANT.

“I SAID LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIND A
LIVE DONOR.”

Live-donor kidneys

- **Function better**
- **Last longer**

RECEIVING A KIDNEY FROM A LIVE
DONOR HAS MANY BENEFITS. FOR
EXAMPLE, LIVE-DONOR KIDNEYS
MAY FUNCTION BETTER AND LAST
LONGER THAN DECEASED DONOR
KIDNEYS. BUT IN ORDER TO BE A
DONOR, YOU HAVE TO GO
THROUGH MANY TESTS STARTING

CG 1:03 to 1:08
Vivien Williams
Reporting

CG 1:08 to 1:12

Marek Mazur, M.D.

Mayo Clinic nephrologist

Live-donor evaluation

- **Medical**
- **Surgical**
- **Psychological**

To video of Scott and Ellen at home

WITH BLOOD TESTS TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE A MATCH.

“THEN THE DONOR WOULD BE INVITED TO GO THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION”

DR. MAREK MAZUR SAYS THE EVALUATION INCLUDES MEDICAL, SURGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS TO BE SURE YOU ARE HEALTHY ENOUGH TO DONATE. LIKE ANY OTHER SURGERY, IT TAKES TIME TO RECOVER. AS ELLEN KNOWS ALL TOO WELL.

“DEAR ELLEN VOLUNTEERED TO GIVE ME HER KIDNEY.”

“IT WAS REALLY SOMETHING TO GIVE SCOTT THIS GIFT AFTER 30 YEARS.”

FOR MEDICAL EDGE, I’M VIVIEN WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

You might wonder if it’s dangerous to donate a kidney. Dr. Mazur says if the donors go through proper testing and are considered healthy enough to donate, they should live a normal life with their one remaining kidney.

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