

**Kidney Transplantation: Investigating Sexual Functioning in Female Recipients and
Exploring the Lived Experience of Donors**

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Paper 1: Literature Review

No.	Study	Country	<i>N</i> (total sample)	<i>N</i> (female KTx)	Sample	Design	Sexuality measure	Findings
9	Koca, Koca & Ersoy (2012)	Turkey	115	33	Female PD, HD + KTx recipients + control	CS	ASEX – Turkish translation	SD in: RTx = 18.2% Control = 2.9% HD = 74.4% (sig) PD = 37.2%
10	Kucuk, Turkmen & Kucuk (2013)	Turkey	100	100	Female KTx recipients	CS	ASEX – Turkish translation	Sexual functioning was reported to be better in period following KTx, however 79% of recipients continued to have SD.

Note. KTx= Kidney Transplant; PD = Peritoneal Dialysis; HD= Haemodialysis; RA = Rheumatoid Arthritis; CS = cross-sectional; P= prospective/longitudinal ASEX= Arizona Sexual Experiences Scale; FSFI = Female Sexual Functioning Inventory; RSS = Relationship and Sexuality Scale; SD = sexual dysfunction; SF= sexual functioning.

Paper 2: Empirical Paper

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Journal Statement Requirements

Declaration of Conflicting Interests:

The Author(s) declare(s) that there is no conflict of interest

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participants from being open and honest about their experiences. I spent time prior to the interview describing my role, experience and limits of confidentiality to try to gain participants' trust and build rapport. I was mindful to gain a balance of a formal, yet relaxed atmosphere in order for participants to be able to both be open and to feel contained if sharing difficult information. The framework of IPA along with the structure of the interview schedule allowed me to remain focused and maintain confidence during the interviews. The data gathered included a range of topics which contained highly emotive and sensitive information which suggests participants were able to be open and honest about their experiences. Participants felt able to openly share their disappointment, frustration and critique of the services they received care from which demonstrated they had understood my role and the limits of confidentiality. Some of the participants were tearful during their interview, further evidencing that they felt comfortable to share difficult experiences with me.

The interviews were focused on individuals who had donated to relatives (parents or adult children) which led me to reflect on my own family situation and how I would have reacted and coped in a similar situation. I gained a deeper awareness of my personal relationships, values and morals in relation to the research topic and how these were impacting my interpretations of individuals' experiences during each stage, particularly during analysis. Some of the participants enquired to whether I had children or not and whether I had experience of the donation process. I felt it was important to be honest in these situations, in order to be respectful and maintain rapport. I spent time reflecting on the context and motivations of the individuals who had asked these questions which was incorporated into the analysis.

All of the participants appeared grateful for the opportunity to share their stories. Some reported they appreciated being able to share their experiences as they had not had the chance to do so before. Through reflection of these processes it became clear that I felt

required in order to effectively communicate the findings. Continual reflection on the research objectives and aims and remaining close to the data helped to keep my focus.

Conclusions

This study has highlighted the complexities in the transplantation process for both the donors and recipients. There is currently a lack of research into the psychosocial aspects of donating and receiving a kidney. Further higher quality research is required to understand the issues and raise awareness of the difficulties for individual following transplantation. The aim of this research was to inform, raise awareness and shape renal services and it is my hope this research will help to accomplish those aims.

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Paper 2: Empirical Study

References: 981

Tables, Figures and Appendices: 3034

Paper 3: Contributions to Theory and Practice

References: 951

14. Nurses Telephone Protocol

Telephone Protocol

Project title: The Experiences of Living Donors in Kidney Transplantation

Script for potential participants.

Hi.....,

I am calling to let you know that an information pack regarding a research project has been sent out to you. The researchers contact details are included in the pack if you wish to take part but you don't have to. If you are not interested please discard the pack. Participation is completely voluntary and will not affect any aspect of your care from the renal service. I have been asked to inform you of the information pack but I am not involved in the study so I will not know if you decide to take part or not.

Thank you

If the potential participant would like more information please share with them that the researcher is interested in talking to people who have donated a kidney to discuss their experiences. They are able to find full details in the pack once it arrives. Please do not discuss any further information with potential participants at this stage.