

# Science Times

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DISPARITIES

## Gender Gap Found in Kidney Transplants



Women are less likely to receive kidney transplants than men, and re-

searchers at Johns Hopkins have found that this gap primarily affects older women — even though they fare as well or better than men their age after a transplant.

The researchers examined data from the United States Renal Data System, including a list of 563,197 patients who developed end-stage kidney disease from 2000 to 2005, and they calculated the likelihood of getting on a transplant list, adjusting for factors that would affect the patient's survival after surgery.

They found that women 45 and younger were as likely as men to be placed on a transplant waiting list. But as women aged, their chances of getting on the list

dropped, getting worse with each decade, said the lead author, Dr. Dorry Segev, a transplant surgeon at Johns Hopkins.

By the time women were 46 to 55, they were 3 percent less likely to be put on the transplant list. They were 15 percent less likely to be placed on the list at ages 56 to 65; 29 percent less likely at 66 to 75; and 59 percent less likely to be listed by the time they were 75 or older, Dr. Segev said.

The study was published in The Journal of the American Society of Nephrology.

Dr. Segev suggested that caregivers, family members and maybe the patients perceived older women to be more frail than they really are. "A lot of older women die without having an opportunity to get on the transplant list," he said.

RONI CARYN RABIN