RG6: Mapping a 'Typical' Healthcare Journey on Kidney Transplantation for Adult Indigenous Australian Renal Patients in South Australia

AKction
Aboriginal kidney care together – improving outcomes now

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Background

- High rates of End-Stage Renal Disease (Stage 5 of renal failure) and low rates of gaining eligibility for kidney transplantation for Indigenous Australians as compared to non-Indigenous Australians.[1,2]
- The kidney transplantation is a recognised treatment for most renal failure patients with from either a living or a deceased donor.[3]
- Many Indigenous Australians are unfamiliar with the transplantation work-up process; therefore, it is vital to map out a clear pathway of the steps and requirements for kidney transplantation.

Aims

- To map a 'typical' journey undertaken by an Indigenous Australian adult living with kidney failure in SA who wishes to become eligible for kidney transplantation.
- To assist the *AKction* project in better understanding and improving communication, collaboration, planning, and cultural aspects of Indigenous Australian patient journeys.

Ethics Approval

- AHREC Aboriginal Health Council of SA (AHREC Protocol #: 04-18-796)
- CALHN – Central Adelaide Local Health Network (HREC reference number: HREC/19/CALHN/45)
- University of Adelaide (Research Master) (Application ID: 33754)

Methods

Qualitative Methodology

- 3 stages with the utilisation of Participatory action research (PAR) approach: (1) Look and Listen, (2) Think and Discuss, and (3) Take Action.
- Dadirri deep listening, Ganma-knowledge sharing, and cultural respect were emphasised throughout the research.[4,5,6]

Figure 1: *The 3 stages undertaken to create the health mapping journey for kidney transplantation.*

Results

- The only kidney transplantation service in South Australia is located at The Royal Adelaide Hospital.[7]
- Patient assisted travel schemes (PATS) is available to assists with transportation and relocation purposes but is limited.[7]
- Accommodations are available for patients who live 100km from Adelaide or for clinical appointments through the Kanggawodli services.[8]

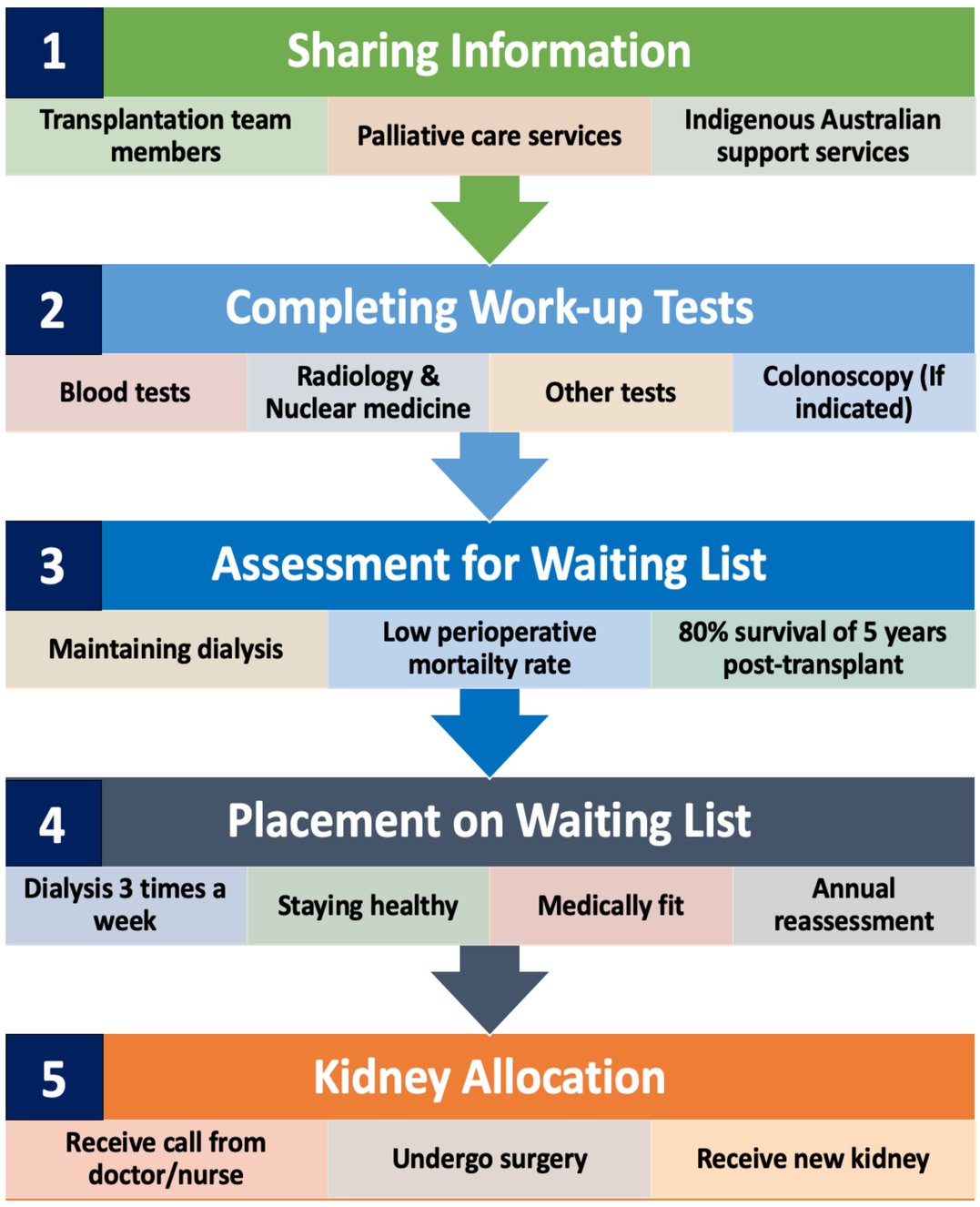

Figure 2: *The 5 crucial steps of receiving kidney transplantation.*[7]

Conclusions

- The eligibility of getting kidney transplantation by Indigenous Australians require 5 crucial steps, multiple work-ups and assessments.
- Indigenous Australians often experience difficulties when trying to navigate the confusing kidney transplantation journey.
- Significance: This study could increase awareness of kidney transplantation processes and inform future mapping.
- Limitation: The study could not include identifiable data due to ethics, therefore only a literature review was conducted.

Reference List

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