

Kidney failure is when the kidneys stop filtering out waste and let urea build up in the bloodstream. Dialysis and kidney transplants are both treatments for kidney failure. The advantages for dialysis are it acts as artificial kidney, no major operation is needed, there is no risk of rejection, it does not require daily medication and it enables patients to maintain their health. The disadvantages are it is extremely time consuming, expensive for the NHS, it is only temporary, it is not successful in prolonged time periods, people can still die with dialysis, patients have to have restrictive diet and there is a risk of infection and blood clotting. The advantages of a kidney transplant are it is less restrictive, the patient can have their life back to normal, it is less expensive for the NHS and there is a lower risk of infection and blood clots. The disadvantages of a kidney transplant are there is big shortage of kidney donors, patients can be waiting years, the organ can be rejected, the patient must be on immunosuppressant drugs for the rest of their life, there is risk many risks involved with the operation and kidney's often last up to 10 years (so it is not a permanent solution).