



Abstract Type : Poster exhibition

Abstract Submission No.: A-0443

Abstract Topic : Transplantation

Willingness To Pay For Kidney Transplantation Among ESRD Patients Worldwide: A Systematic Review And Meta-Analysis

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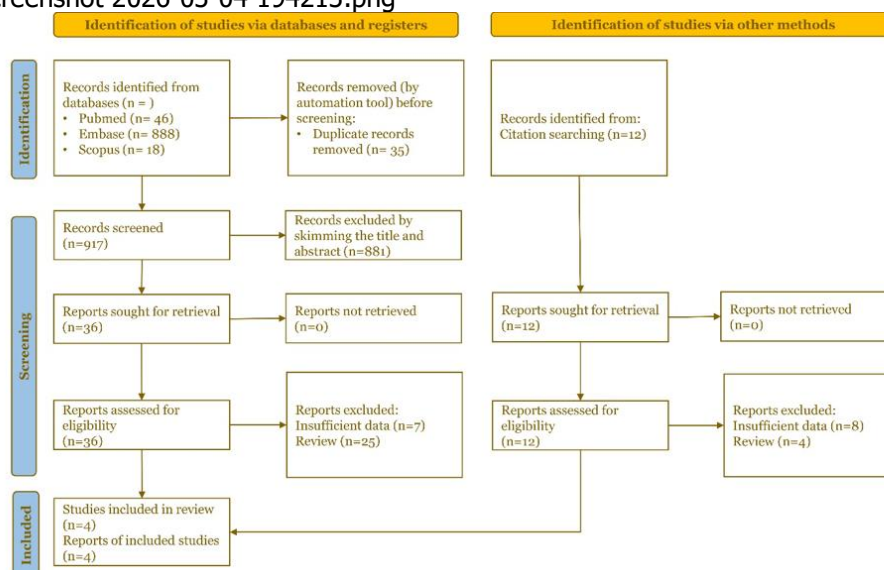
Objectives : This study aims to evaluate the level of willingness to pay (WTP) for kidney transplantation among ESRD patients globally.

Methods : This systematic review and meta-analysis was conducted following PRISMA guidelines through a literature search in PubMed, Scopus, and Embase. Observational studies reporting quantitative WTP data among ESRD patients were included. Statistical analysis was performed using a single-arm meta-analysis model with the primary effect size being the pooled event rate, heterogeneity test I^2 , and Egger's test to identify potential publication bias.

Results : Four studies involving 893 participants from various countries, including Iran, Ghana, Turkey and the United States, met the inclusion criteria. Overall, 52% (95% CI: 0.35-0.68; $p = 0.824$) of patients with ESRD expressed a willingness to pay for kidney transplantation, and considerable heterogeneity was observed ($I^2 = 98.36\%$). The lowest willingness to pay was found in Ghana, where 26.3% of patients with ESRD were willing, while in Turkey, the mean cost for living donors was US\$ 40,751. There was no evidence of publication bias, $p = 0.6835$.

Conclusions : Roughly half of patients with ESRD worldwide are willing to pay for kidney transplantation, reflecting strong interest in this therapy. More inclusive health financing policies are needed to improve global access to kidney transplantation.

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Shaping Tomorrow's Nephrology: Insight-Driven Kidney Care

KSN SEOUL, KOREA
2026

The 46th Annual Meeting of the Korean Society of Nephrology



Jun 11 (Thu) – 14 (Sun), 2026

COEX, Seoul, Korea

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