About PKD

Polycystic kidney disease (PKD) is a chronic, genetic disease causing uncontrolled growth of fluid-filled cysts in the kidneys, often leading to kidney failure. It affects all racial and ethnic groups equally.

A typical kidney is the size of a human fist and weighs about a third of a pound. Polycystic kidneys can be much larger, some growing as large as a football and weighing 30 pounds. Kidneys can develop cysts ranging in size from as small as a pinhead to as large as a grapefruit.

There are two types of PKD: autosomal dominant (ADPKD) and autosomal recessive (ARPKD). ADPKD is more common and affects an estimated 600,000 Americans and 12.4 million people worldwide. ARPKD is a rare form of the disease that occurs in 1 in 20,000 children.

Approximately
600,000
people in America and
12.4 Million
people in the world have ADPKD.

1 in 20,000
children have ARPKD.

PKD FACTS

Autosomal dominant

- ADPKD is the fourth leading cause of kidney failure.
- Approximately 10% of patients with PKD have no family history of the disease, as ADPKD may develop as a spontaneous (new) mutation.
- More than 50% of people with ADPKD will reach renal failure by age 57.
- Once a person has kidney failure, dialysis or a transplant are the only treatment options.
- Parents have a 50% chance of passing the disease to their children, so it often affects many people in one family.
- The first and only treatment for ADPKD was approved by the FDA in April 2018.

Autosomal recessive

- Only 70% of children born with ARPKD survive the newborn period and one-third of those who survive will need dialysis or transplantation by age 10.
- The prognosis for children with ARPKD has improved dramatically. In the past 20 years, only half of the children born with ARPKD survived to age 10, but now the survival percentage has increased to 85%.

SYMPTOMS OF PKD

People living with PKD may experience the following symptoms:

- High-blood pressure (hypertension)
- Frequent urinary tract infections
- Blood in urine (hematuria)
- Protein in urine (proteinuria)
- Back/flank pain
- Enlarged kidneys
- Mitral valve prolapse
- Hernia
- Kidney stones
- Depression
- Anxiety

My story

Legislator name

Local PKD facts

My name

My city and state

PKD matters to me because...

PKD FOUNDATION
Polycystic Kidney Disease