

# Chronic kidney disease

A growing global and European health challenge



Globally, one person dies every 20 seconds from CKD!<sup>1</sup>

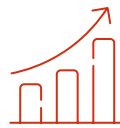


Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a long-term condition in which there are abnormalities in kidney structure or function for at least three months with an impact on health.<sup>1,2</sup>

CKD is closely associated with diabetes, hypertension, and cardio-kidney-metabolic conditions.<sup>1,2</sup> It increases the risk of kidney failure and premature death, making early detection vital to enable timely interventions that may help slow disease progression.<sup>1</sup>

## The scale of the burden

Ageing populations and rising rates of obesity, diabetes, and hypertension are driving the growing burden of CKD.<sup>2</sup>



Global impact <sup>3,4,5</sup>	European impact <sup>1</sup>
<b>850 million</b> Over <b>850 million</b> people living with CKD	<b>93 million</b> Over <b>93 million</b> adults living with CKD
<b>x2</b> Cases have <b>more than doubled</b> since 1990	<b>14-26%</b> Prevalence has increased by <b>14-26%</b> since 1990
<b>1.5m deaths</b> ~ <b>1.5 million</b> deaths each year (9th leading cause of death)	<b>210k deaths</b> ~ <b>210,000</b> deaths in 2023 (1 death every 2.5 minutes)
<b>5th</b> Projected to become the <b>5th leading cause of death</b> by 2050	<b>3rd</b> Projected to become the <b>3rd leading cause of death</b> in Western Europe by 2050

## The hidden challenge: Late detection



CKD is often asymptomatic in the early stages, and **around 30%** of people remain undiagnosed.<sup>4</sup>

## Inequalities in care

**Access to diagnosis and treatment varies widely** across regions, contributing to avoidable differences in patient outcomes.

**Albuminuria testing** (a test that detects a blood protein in the urine, an early sign of kidney damage) can be as low as 4% in some at-risk groups.<sup>4</sup> There are differences between countries in access to albuminuria testing and reimbursement. Taking action when albuminuria is high, even if kidney function is still normal, may delay the need for dialysis by up to almost three decades.<sup>6</sup>

### Up to a 28-fold difference in kidney replacement therapy

(life-saving treatments such as dialysis or kidney transplant) prevalence between European countries.<sup>1</sup>



Up to a **60-fold difference** in the ratio of transplant prevalence to dialysis prevalence between European countries.<sup>1</sup>



Limited access to dialysis and transplantation contributes to **preventable deaths**.<sup>3</sup>



## Act now!

### Changing the trajectory of CKD



**Test earlier** in high-risk populations using the ABCDE approach



**Reduce inequalities** in diagnosis and care



**Improve access** to routine albuminuria testing



**Strengthen cardio-kidney-metabolic care integration**



**CKD is common, often silent, and increasing. Earlier detection, timely management, and equitable access to care are essential to reduce its impact and improve outcomes.**

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2. Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes. (KDIGO) CKD Work Group (2024). KDIGO 2024 Clinical Practice Guideline for the Evaluation and Management of Chronic Kidney Disease. *Kidney International*, 105(4S), S117-S314.

3. Jager, K. J., Kovesdy, C., Langham, R., et al. (2019). A single number for advocacy and communication-worldwide more than 850 million individuals have kidney diseases. *Kidney International*, 96(5), 1049-1050.

4. GBD 2023 Chronic Kidney Disease Collaborators (2025). Global, regional, and national burden of chronic kidney disease in adults, 1990-2023, and its attributable risk factors: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2023. *The Lancet*, 406(10518), 2461-2482.

5. GBD 2021 Forecasting Collaborators (2024). Burden of disease scenarios for 204 countries and territories, 2022-2050: a forecasting analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021. *Lancet* (London, England), 403(10440), 2204-2256.

6. Fernández-Fernández, B., Sarafidis, P., Salar, M.J., Ortiz, A. (2023). EMPA-KIDNEY: expanding the range of kidney protection by SGLT2 inhibitors. *Clinical Kidney Journal*, 16(8):1187-1198. doi:10.1093/ckj/sfad082