

Kidney Replacement Therapy (KRT) in the EU



Understanding kidney failure and life-saving treatment, drawing primarily on ERA Registry data

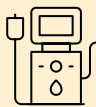
What is KRT?¹

- **Kidney replacement therapy (KRT)** is required to sustain life when the kidneys can no longer function
- It is typically used when **chronic kidney disease (CKD)** progresses to kidney failure

KRT includes two main types of treatment:

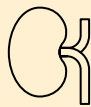
Dialysis²

Removes waste and excess fluid from the blood



Kidney transplant²

A donor kidney partly restores function



KRT initiation³

Most patients start with **haemodialysis**:

83% **haemodialysis** (typically hospital-based)

11% **peritoneal dialysis** (home-based)

6% **pre-emptive kidney transplant**



Outcomes matter¹

5-year survival rate:

Dialysis

41%

Transplant

85–95%



Life expectancy vs. general population:

Dialysis

Men: 36 years shorter*

Women: 44 years shorter*

Transplant

Men: 20 years shorter*

Women: 22 years shorter*

*Based on patients aged 20-24 years

Patients receiving KRT (EU, 2023)¹

>500,000 people receiving KRT



~310,000 on dialysis



~200,000 kidney transplant recipients



~150% increase in people on KRT since 1990



Variations across the EU¹

KRT prevalence per million population:

560 Luxembourg (lowest)

2,022 Portugal (highest)



France, Germany, Spain and Italy together account for ~60% of all KRT patients in the EU:

France 96,317

Germany 77,900

Spain 67,604

Italy 62,523

Key insights

- ★ Kidney failure is a **growing public health challenge**
- ★ KRT is **life-saving but resource-intensive**
- ★ Access and treatment patterns **vary widely**
- ★ Most patients remain on dialysis **despite better outcomes with transplantation**
- ★ Life expectancy on dialysis and after a transplant is **shorter compared to the general population**



What needs to change

- ★ **Earlier detection** of CKD
- ★ **Equal access** to KRT
- ★ **More equitable care** across the EU



www.era-online.org/research-education/era-registry

1. Ortiz, A., Kramer, A., & Stel, V. S. (2026). Over 500,000 people on kidney replacement therapy in the European Union. *Nephrology, Dialysis, Transplantation*. Advance online publication. doi.org/10.1093/ndt/gfag017.

2. Agarwal, A., Anjum, F. (2026). Hemodialysis. *StatPearls [Internet]*. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK563296/

3. European Renal Association (ERA) Registry. (2025). *ERA Registry Annual Report 2023*. www.era-online.org/research-education/era-registry

Data note: Data are primarily from the ERA Registry, supplemented by Global Burden of Disease estimates where data were incomplete.