



Strong Kidneys

Protect your kidneys, protect your future

The burden of chronic kidney disease (CKD) across Europe

The kidneys: Small in size, big in impact

The kidneys, though small in size, are vital organs that perform essential functions within the body. These two bean-shaped structures play a critical role in:

- Filtering blood to remove waste, toxins and fluids
- Regulating bone health
- Maintaining mineral balance
- Producing essential hormones



Your kidneys can filter a remarkable 180 litres of blood each day!¹

CKD: The silent crisis

CKD is a long-term condition where kidney structure or function becomes abnormal.² Even though CKD is often silent in its early stages with non-specific symptoms³, a significant number of functions are lost before diagnosis. Many people are therefore unaware of their condition.



Why it matters: A growing problem

CKD affects millions worldwide, and its burden is expected to rise due to increasing rates of associated risk factors such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and an aging population.⁴

13% of adults worldwide live with CKD⁵



Across Europe, CKD:

- Affects **100 million people**⁶
- Costs €140 billion annually (not including productivity loss)⁷



Worldwide, CKD:

- Affects **850 million people**⁸
- Is the 11th leading cause of death worldwide⁹
- Is projected to be the 5th leading cause of death by 2050¹⁰

Solving the CKD crisis, together

CKD is often under-recognised by both patients and healthcare professionals, despite the fact that its progression can be significantly slowed through early detection and management of risk factors.

We are therefore calling on policymakers, health authorities and medical professionals to join forces in elevating CKD as a key priority on every national political agenda.



In order to:

- Improve patient outcomes
- Avoid reaching the need for dialysis or transplantation
- Maintain a sustainable healthcare system

We need to:

- Raise awareness of CKD among the general public and healthcare professionals
- Strengthen health policy to improve outcomes and quality of care for patients
- Implement systematic screening to identify and support at-risk populations
- Emphasise kidney health in every health programme



We can act **today** to improve awareness and reduce the impact of **CKD tomorrow.**

References

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