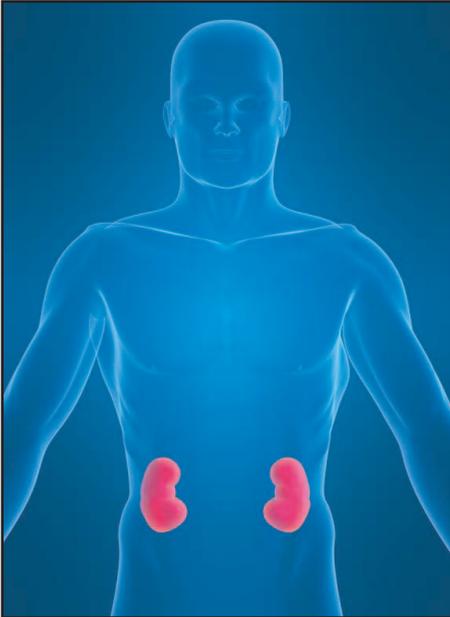


ALCOHOL RELATED KIDNEY DISEASE

The kidneys are two organs located on either side of the body, just beneath and to the back of the rib cage.



The main role of the kidneys is to filter waste products from the blood and then excrete them in the urine, thereby cleaning the blood and ejecting the waste from the body.

The kidneys also:

- Help maintain blood pressure.

- Maintain the correct levels of chemicals in your body which, will help heart and muscles function properly.

- Produce a type of vitamin D that keeps bones healthy.

- Produce a substance called erythropoietin, which helps stimulate production of red blood cells.

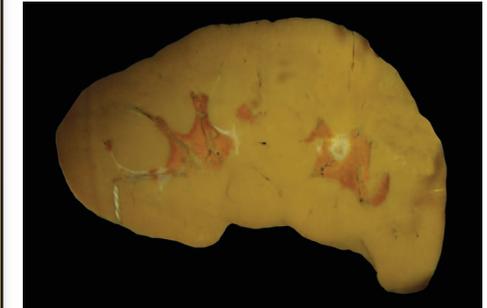


Dialysis machine, for removing waste and excess water from the blood, used primarily to provide an artificial replacement for lost kidney function in people with renal failure, or progressive but chronically worsening kidney function (chronic kidney disease).

Drinking alcohol can cause the kidneys to increase urinary output (urinating more) which can lead to dehydration. The high levels of carbohydrate associated with heavy drinking can cause obesity, which increases the risk of diabetes and diabetic kidney disease.

Excessive and or prolonged alcohol misuse can irreparably damage the kidneys and increase the chance of needing medical intervention. Damaged kidney cells increase the chance of developing high blood pressure which is a leading cause of kidney disease. Even two drinks a day can cause a rise in blood pressure. . Drinking alcohol can also interfere with any medications being taken to control existing blood pressure.

Early stage kidney disease often exhibits few if any symptoms but can often be treated if detected early. Diagnosis involves a test for protein in the urine and a blood test to check the level of kidney function.



An alcohol related diseased kidney.



Patient receiving dialysis, this can take 3 -8 hours and needs to be done 3 - 7 times a week.