

There are many types of kidney diseases. Following are general definitions. Your physician can help you better understand these kidney diseases and what they mean to you.

Diabetic Kidney Disease: The percentage of people with diabetes, a condition that causes problems with how your body handles sugar, is rising. More than 25.8 million children and adults in the United States — 8.3% of the population — have diabetes. About 1/3 of people with diabetes develop kidney disease. Diabetes is the most common cause of kidney failure. People with diabetes should get tested for kidney disease every year and should take active measures to control blood sugar and blood pressure.

Hypertension (Chronic Hypertension): Hypertension, better known as high blood pressure, has been called a silent killer because most people don't recognize they have it since there are generally no symptoms or warning signs. Uncontrolled high blood pressure is the second most common reason for kidney failure (after uncontrolled diabetes).

Acute Kidney Injuries (AKI): A sudden loss of kidney function. Kidneys clean waste products from the blood and manage the balance of fluid in the body. There are many causes of AKI including infections, drugs, autoimmune diseases, long period of dehydration and urinary stream obstruction.

Electrolyte Disorders: Disorders resulting in an imbalance of minerals in the body, potentially leading to damage to vital body systems, such as the muscles and brain.

Glomerulonephritis: A large group of kidney diseases that involve the glomeruli (kidney filters).

Lupus Nephritis: An inflammation of the kidney caused by systemic lupus erythematosus, a disease of the immune system.

Nephrotic Syndrome: A syndrome in which the kidney filters insufficiently filter waste products and excess fluids from the blood. In this syndrome, the kidney filters leak a significant amount of proteins in the urine which can result in kidney injury, swollen tissues, malnutrition and decrease immunity among other problems.

Nephritic Syndrome: A syndrome in which the kidney filters become inflamed. This inflammation causes the kidneys to work less effectively. It also causes protein and red blood cells to leak from the bloodstream into the urine.

Pyelonephritis: Inflammation of the substance of the kidneys as a result of bacterial infection.

Polycystic Kidney Disorder: A genetic disorder in which clusters of cysts develop primarily within the kidneys, leading to high blood pressure and kidney failure.

Amyloidosis: A disease characterized by an abnormal buildup of proteins (called amyloid) in various organs in the body including the kidneys.

Secondary and Tertiary Hyperparathyroidism: Disorders characterized by excessive release of parathyroid hormone from the parathyroid glands. Chronic kidney disease can cause Vitamin-D deficiency and abnormal release of parathyroid hormone which can result in bone pain and fractures.

Iron Deficiency Anemia: Chronic kidney disease can result in decreased iron absorption from food and can disrupt the utilization of iron stores in the body which can result in anemia (low hemoglobin).

End Stage Renal Disease: This is a medical condition characterized by severe impairment of kidney function in which the kidneys fail to filter waste products and excess water from the blood. In these cases, kidney replacement therapy (dialysis) is required.