

Georges Needs a Kidney Part 6

The progress since last month has mostly been procedural. All of the information about my tests and results, were collected and the team of physicians responsible met and reviewed them. They concluded that I can indeed be a kidney donor. Georges' paperwork was added to that and we have officially become a "pair" in the National Kidney Foundation Paired Exchange Program as well as the United Network for Organ Sharing.

As I understand it, about 5 seconds after we are entered, the computer makes all of the potential matches, which is to say other donors whose blood type and antigen profile match Georges' and other potential recipients who match mine.

This could be as simple as one to one or as complex as a dozen or more donors and recipients in a "chain". This is the beginning of the process.

Once these potential chains are identified, the physicians responsible for each of the recipients review the potential donors information. They may ask to see specific results of certain test or even scans of the healthy kidney. In the final analysis, they have to be as certain as possible that this potential match is the best for their patient. It's possible that if there are several possible donors for a particular recipient and another is much younger than me, their doctor may choose that donor. On the other hand if the kidney that I'll be donating is closer to the size of the one being replaced they may choose me. These are my examples, and I'm sure the physicians have others that are more relevant. The point is that now the decisions will be made by individuals, in fact teams of individuals trying to get the best outcome for their patient. Georges' physicians are in that mix now. This could happen in days or months.

There are more than 80,000 potential recipients on the waiting list, and every day new ones are added and former ones are removed, some because they have received a kidney, but sadly some because they died waiting. For Georges and I waiting is all we can do. Besides praying. If things move quickly we will update on Facebook, Asylum Hill Living.

