

Influence of Socio-Economic Inequalities on Access to Renal Transplantation and Survival of Patients with End-Stage Renal Disease

Wahida Kihal-Talantikite, Cécile Vigneau, Severine Deguen, Muriel Siebert, Cécile Couchoud, Sahar Bayat

► **To cite this version:**

Wahida Kihal-Talantikite, Cécile Vigneau, Severine Deguen, Muriel Siebert, Cécile Couchoud, et al.. Influence of Socio-Economic Inequalities on Access to Renal Transplantation and Survival of Patients with End-Stage Renal Disease. PLoS ONE, Public Library of Science, 2016, 11 (4), pp.e0153431. 10.1371/journal.pone.0153431 . hal-01305481

HAL Id: hal-01305481

<https://hal-univ-rennes1.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-01305481>

Submitted on 9 Oct 2018

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Influence of Socio-Economic Inequalities on Access to Renal Transplantation and Survival of Patients with End-Stage Renal Disease

Wahida Kihal-Talantikite^{1*}, Cécile Vigneau^{2,3}, Séverine Deguen¹, Muriel Siebert², Cécile Couchoud⁴, Sahar Bayat⁵

1 EHESP School of Public Health, Sorbonne Paris Cité, Rennes, France, **2** CHU Pontchaillou, Service de néphrologie, Rennes, France, **3** Université de Rennes 1, UMR 6290, équipe Kyca, Rennes, France, **4** REIN Registry, Agence de la biomédecine, Saint Denis La Plaine, France, **5** EHESP School of Public Health, Sorbonne Paris Cité, EA MOS, Rennes, France

* Wahida.kihal@ehesp.fr



OPEN ACCESS

Citation: Kihal-Talantikite W, Vigneau C, Deguen S, Siebert M, Couchoud C, Bayat S (2016) Influence of Socio-Economic Inequalities on Access to Renal Transplantation and Survival of Patients with End-Stage Renal Disease. PLoS ONE 11(4): e0153431. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0153431

Editor: Jose Ignacio Herrero, Clínica Universidad de Navarra, SPAIN

Received: October 8, 2015

Accepted: March 29, 2016

Published: April 15, 2016

Copyright: © 2016 Kihal-Talantikite et al. This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Data Availability Statement: All data used for this research were extracted from the REIN registry, coordinated and supported by the French Biomedicine Agency. The access to national data is regulated by a scientific committee of French Biomedicine Agency which analyzes each request, and so cannot be made publicly available due to legal restrictions. Data are available upon request. If readers need information about the data from the REIN registry, they can contact Dr. Cecile Couchoud who coordinates the REIN at the national level (email address: cecile.couchoud@biomedecine.fr).

Abstract

Background

Public and scientific concerns about the social gradient of end-stage renal disease and access to renal replacement therapies are increasing. This study investigated the influence of social inequalities on the (i) access to renal transplant waiting list, (ii) access to renal transplantation and (iii) patients' survival.

Methods

All incident adult patients with end-stage renal disease who lived in Bretagne, a French region, and started dialysis during the 2004–2009 period were geocoded in census-blocks. To each census-block was assigned a level of neighborhood deprivation and a degree of urbanization. Cox proportional hazards models were used to identify factors associated with each study outcome.

Results

Patients living in neighborhoods with low level of deprivation had more chance to be placed on the waiting list and less risk of death (HR = 1.40 95%CI: [1.1–1.7]; HR = 0.82 95%CI: [0.7–0.98]), but this association did not remain after adjustment for the patients' clinical features. The likelihood of receiving renal transplantation after being waitlisted was not associated with neighborhood deprivation in univariate and multivariate analyses.

Conclusions

In a mixed rural and urban French region, patients living in deprived or advantaged neighborhoods had the same chance to be placed on the waiting list and to undergo renal transplantation. They also showed the same mortality risk, when their clinical features were taken into account.

Funding: This study was supported by grants from French Biomedicine Agency.

Competing Interests: The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

Introduction

Renal transplantation is the optimal treatment for end-stage renal disease (ESRD). It is associated with increased quality of life [1,2], lower mortality and morbidity [3–5].

In developed countries, many studies found that age, gender and comorbidities [6,7] are associated with access to the renal transplant waiting list [8,9] and mortality [10]. Moreover, social inequalities in the access to the transplant waiting lists and to renal transplantation have been highlighted in the United States of America (USA) and United Kingdom (UK). These disparities may be related to several individual and neighborhood-related factors. Specifically, some works suggested a role for various non-medical individual factors, such as health insurance status [11], employment status [12] and education level [13]. Previous epidemiological studies also showed a social gradient of ESRD [14,15] and access to the transplant waiting list [16–19]. Indeed, people living in deprived neighborhoods are more likely to start renal replacement therapy and less likely to be wait-listed. However, the results of studies on access to renal transplantation after being waitlisted and on patients' survival are contradictory [8,16]. The meta-analysis carried out by Morton et al. found consistent evidences that disadvantaged individuals with chronic kidney disease (CKD) have poorer access to quality treatment, including renal transplantation [20]. Studies in the USA suggest that the socio-economic status is a potential determinant of access to health care [21] that can influence the likelihood of placement on the renal transplant waiting list and of renal transplantation. In France, the access to diagnosis could be affected by neighborhood deprivation [22]; however, the national health insurance system covers the entire population and, therefore, ESRD treatment should not be limited by the patients' socio-economic status. Moreover, medical and hospital costs for patients with CKD are completely covered (100%) and the reimbursement is regulated according to uniform rates, regardless of whether the patient is treated in public or private-sector nephrology facilities.

To our knowledge, few studies have investigated the impact of both patients' medical features and non-medical contextual factors on the access to the renal transplant waiting list, renal transplantation and patients' survival. These works assessed the influence of individual or neighborhood-related factors (deprivation, or degree of urbanization) on renal transplantation or on survival. However, most of them focused on racial disparities and investigated mainly the effect of poverty on these disparities [18,23].

In France, no study has assessed the social inequalities of access to renal transplantation. After a study on the socio-spatial inequalities of ESRD incidence in Bretagne [22], here we investigated the social inequalities in (i) the access to the renal transplant waiting list, (ii) access to renal transplantation after being wait-listed and (iii) patients' survival, by taking into account both individual and neighborhood characteristics (neighborhood deprivation and degree of urbanization) of the smallest geographic unit (census block), in Bretagne, a French region.

Material and Methods

Study setting

This study was carried out in Bretagne, one of the administrative regions in France. Bretagne is a mixed urban and rural region, located in the western part of France, with a population of 3,094,000 inhabitants in 2006.

Data source and participants' selection

This study included a cohort of adult patients who lived in Bretagne and started dialysis (incident cases) between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2009. This cohort was extracted from

the French national “Réseau Epidémiologie et Information en Néphrologie” (REIN) registry [24,25]. The patients’ residential address was retrieved and matched to the corresponding census block. Preemptively transplanted patients were not included.

Covariates

Five categories of variables were studied:

1. Demographic data: age group (18–39, 40–59, 60–69, ≥ 70 years), sex and occupational status.
2. Clinical features at first dialysis: body mass index (BMI), hemoglobin and serum albumin, primary renal disease (categorized in six groups: glomerulonephritis, pyelonephritis, diabetic nephropathy, hypertensive and vascular nephropathy, polycystic kidney disease and other causes/unknown) and comorbidities. The Comorbidities included in this analysis were: cardiovascular disease (coronary artery disease, peripheral vascular disease, congestive heart failure, arrhythmia, aortic aneurysm and cerebrovascular disease), diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, hepatic disease, active malignancy and physical disabilities (physical impairment of ambulation, para- or hemiplegia, blindness, member amputation).
3. Data concerning the medical follow-up in nephrology centers: ownership of nephrology facility where the first dialysis was performed (public university centers, public non-university centers and private centers), date of first dialysis, emergency vs planned first dialysis session, type of first dialysis (hemodialysis (HD) or peritoneal dialysis (PD)), date of placement on the waiting list, date of renal transplantation and date of death.
4. Blood type and Panel Reactive Antibody (PRA) for patients registered on the waiting list and donor type (deceased or living) for patients who underwent renal transplantation.
5. Two neighborhood characteristics at the census-block level: (i) degree of urbanization (rural/ urban typology) and (ii) socio-economic deprivation index. The residential census block of each patient was classified as urban or rural [22] using an approach inspired from the study by Van Eupene et al., 2012 [26]. The urban/rural typology was defined by combining two criteria of rural/urban classification: the population density, using the OECD typology (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) [27] and land cover [28] (for more details, see Kihal et al., 2015 [22]). For the socio-economic deprivation index, socio-economic and demographic data were obtained from the 2006 census at the census-block level. To characterize the neighborhood deprivation level, a deprivation index was used that included variables related to education, income, occupation, unemployment and immigration to cover and capture the different dimensions of deprivation. Successive principal-component analyses were performed to calculate the deprivation index, based on Lalloue et al. [29], in each considered geographic area (rural/urban). The measure of neighborhood deprivation was categorized in three groups (low, moderate or high deprivation) according to the tertiles of the index distribution [22].

Outcomes measures

The outcomes of interest included:

1. Access to the renal transplant waiting list: patients placed on the waiting list before starting dialysis were considered to be wait-listed at first dialysis. Time to wait-listing was calculated from the date of first dialysis. Not wait-listed patients were censored at the date of death or at the end of the follow-up period (December 31, 2011).

2. Access to renal transplantation after placement on the list: patients who received renal transplant from a living donor were excluded from the analyses. Time to renal transplantation was calculated from the date of placement on the waiting list. Non-transplanted patients were censored at the date of death or at the end of the follow-up period.
3. Survival: time to death was calculated from the date of the first dialysis. Living patients were censored at the end of the follow-up period. Renal transplantation was considered as a time-dependent covariate.

Statistical analyses

Cox proportional hazards models were used to identify the factors associated with the likelihood of (i) being placed on the waiting list, (ii) being transplanted after placement on the waiting list and (iii) survival. Patients with missing data were excluded from the analyses.

First, univariate Cox regression analyses were performed to assess associations between the outcomes and the patients' characteristics (including neighborhood data). Then, multivariate Cox models were constructed using variables with a p-value lower than 0.2 in univariate analyses and variables that were selected *a priori*, based on literature findings (gender and neighborhood deprivation). Results were reported as hazard ratios (HR) with 95% confidence interval (CI) and p-values. Statistical significance was identified by a p-value lower than 0.05. All analyses were performed using the STATA software (version 11.2).

Ethics statement

This retrospective study was approved by the French Biomedecine Agency and included patients' data that were anonymized and de-identified directly in the REIN database before extraction for the analysis.

Patients and the associated data were extracted from the French REIN registry that was approved by CNIL (Commission Nationale de l'Information et des Libertés) in 2010. REIN is registered with the CNIL under the following number: 903188 Version 3.

Results

Participants' characteristics

Data concerning 2006 incident patients who lived in Bretagne and started dialysis between January 2004 and December 2009 were extracted from the REIN registry. By the end of 2011, 27% of them were registered on the transplant waiting list and 24% had received a kidney transplant mostly from deceased donors (five living donors). Moreover, 931 patients (46%) died during the follow-up period.

Among the 2006 patients, 56.1% were older than 70 years (mean age: 67.3 years), 60.6% males, 79.1% without occupation, 26% had diabetes, 54.5% had cardiovascular diseases, 47.2% lived in a rural area, 50% in census-blocks with high socio-economic deprivation and 18.7% in areas with low deprivation ([Table 1](#)).

Among the patients placed on the waiting list (n = 546), 5.9% were older than 70 years, 61.5% were males and 56.1% without occupation, 16.3% had diabetes, 21.6% had cardiovascular diseases, 50.7% lived in a rural area, 46.1% were from highly disadvantaged and 23.6% from less disadvantaged census-blocks.

Access to the renal transplant waiting list ([Table 1](#))

(a) **Univariate analysis.** Occupation, young age, high hemoglobin level (≥ 12 g/dl) and private ownership of the nephrology facility were significantly associated with higher access to the

Table 1. Patients' characteristics at first dialysis and their association with access to the waiting list (univariate and multivariate Cox analyses).

Patients' characteristics	Number (%)	Univariate analysis		Multivariate analysis	
		2006	HR (95%CI)	p-value	HR (95%CI)	p-value
Age					
18–39	122 (6.1)	54.52 [36.7–81.1]	<0.001	29.81 [18.1–49.1]	<0.001
40–59	425 (21.2)	38.10 [24.4–54.9]	<0.001	23.50 [15.2–36.4]	<0.001
60–69	334 (16.6)	12.15 [8.2–18.0]	<0.001	11.00 [7.01–17.2]	<0.001
≥70	1125 (56.1)	1		1	
Sex					
Men	1216 (60.6)	1.06 [0.9–1.2]	0.49	1.01 [0.8–1.2]	0.9
Women	790 (39.4)	1		1	
Occupational status					
Yes	264 (14.3)	8.38[7.0–10.2]	<0.001	1.61 [1.3–2.0]	<0.001
No	1587 (85.7)	1		1	
BMI † (kg/m2)					
<20	262 (14)	0.98 [0.7–1.3]	0.87	-	
[20–25[	783 (41.8)	1		-	
[25–30 [	537 (28.7)	0.85 [0.7–1.1]	0.14	-	
[30–35 [	212 (11.3)	1.02 [0.8–1.3]	0.85	-	
≥35	79 (4.2)	0.46 [0.3–0.8]	0.008	-	
Serum albumin (g/dl)					
<30	347 (20.6)	0.47 [0.3–0.6]	<0.001	-	
≥30	1334 (79.4)	1			
Hemoglobin (g/dl)					
<10	600 (32.7)	1.04 [0.8–1.3]	0.64	-	
[10–12[	879 (47.9)	1		-	
≥12	356 (19.4)	1.31 [1.1–1.6]	0.02	-	
Type of dialysis					
HD	1756 (87.5)	0.85 [0.7–1.1]	0.20	-	
DP	250 (12.5)	1		-	
Emergency first dialysis session					
Yes	558 (71.4)	0.67 [0.5–0.8]	<0.001	0.59 [0.5–0.8]	<0.001
No	1393(28.6)	1		1	
Ownership of dialysis facility					
Private	791(39.4)	2.16 [1.8–2.6]	<0.001	1.4 1[1.1–1.7]	0.001
Public, non-university	943(47.0)	1		1	
Public, university	272 (13.6)	0.52 [0.4–0.8]	0.001	0.64 [0.4–1.0]	0.06
Primary renal disease					
APKD ‡	76 (3.8)	1		1	
Hypertensive & vascular	481 (24.0)	0.14 [0.1–0.2]	<0.001	0.72 [0.5–1.0]	0.07
Other & unknown	786 (39.2)	0.26 [0.2–0.3]	<0.001	0.62 [0.5–0.8]	<0.001
Diabetes	187 (9.3)	0.25 [0.2–0.4]	<0.001	0.67 [0.4–0.98]	0.04
Glomerulonephritis	267 (13.3)	0.64 [0.5–0.8]	0.001	0.85 [0.6–1.1]	0.28
Pyelonephritis	108 (5.4)	0.59 [0.4–0.8]	0.003	0.77 [0.5–1.1]	0.19
Cardiovascular disease					
Yes	1058 (54.5)	0.20 [0.2–0.3]	0.001	0.52 [0.4–0.7]	<0.001
No	883 (45.5)	1		1	
Chronic respiratory disease					
Yes	239 (87.5)	0.38 [0.3–0.6]	<0.001	-	
No	1668(12.5)	1		-	

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)

Patients' characteristics	Number (%)	Univariate analysis		Multivariate analysis	
		2006	HR (95%CI)	p-value	HR (95%CI)	p-value
Active malignancy					
Yes	217 (11.4)	0.18 [0.1–0.3]	<0.001	0.28 [0.2–0.5]	<0.001
No	1689 (88.6)	1		1	
Diabetes					
Yes	505 (26.0)	0.49 [0.4–0.6]	<0.001	-	
No	1437 (74.0)	1		-	
Physical disabilities					
Yes	335 (17.6)	0.18 [0.1–0.3]	<0.001	0.48 [0.3–0.8]	0.002
No	1566 (82.4)	1		1	
Hepatic disease					
Yes	1 832 (96.3)	0.21 [0.1–0.5]	0.001	0.23 [0.1–0.6]	<0.001
No	70 (3.7)	1		1	
Neighborhood deprivation					
Low	75(18.7)	1.40 [1.1–1.7]	0.002	1.04 [0.8–1.3]	>0.5
Moderate	628(31.3)	1.06 [0.9–1.3]	0.53	1.14 [0.9–1.4]	0.7
High	1003(50.0)	1		1	
Degree of urbanization					
Rural	946 (47.2)	1		-	
Urban	1060 (52.8)	0.86 [0.7–1.0]	0.09	-	

† Body Mass Index

‡ polycystic kidney disease

HD: hemodialysis; PD: peritoneal dialysis

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0153431.t001

transplant waiting list. The presence of co-morbidities, physical disabilities, low serum albumin level (<30 g/dl), high BMI value ($\geq 35\text{kg/m}^2$), emergency first dialysis (vs planned one) and all primary renal diseases (compared with polycystic kidney disease) were significantly associated with a lower probability of being wait-listed. Patients living in less disadvantaged census-blocks had higher access to the waiting list than those living in highly disadvantaged areas. Similarly, access to the waiting list was higher for patients living in urban areas than for those living in rural census-blocks.

(b) Multivariate analysis. Young patients (18–39 years) were more likely to be placed on the waiting list (aHR = 29.81 95%CI: [18.1–49.1]). Patients with a cardiovascular disease, hepatic disease, active malignancy or physical disability were less likely to be placed on the list than patients without comorbidity (adjusted HR, aHR = 0.52 95%CI: [0.4–0.7]; aHR = 0.23 95%CI: [0.1–0.6]; aHR = 0.28 95%CI: [0.2–0.5]; aHR = 0.48 95%CI: [0.3–0.8], respectively). Similarly, emergency first dialysis session was still associated with a lower probability of being wait-listed (aHR = 0.59 95%CI: [0.5–0.8]). Patients followed in private facilities were 41% more likely to be registered on the waiting list than patients followed in public non university centers. Conversely, neighborhood deprivation was not significantly associated with access to the waiting list in multivariate analysis.

Access to deceased donor renal transplantation after being wait-listed (Table 2)

(a) Univariate analysis. Patients aged ≥ 70 years or with the A or AB blood groups (compared with the O group) had higher access to renal transplantation. Conversely, the presence of

Table 2. Association between patients' characteristics and access to renal transplantation after placement on the waiting list (univariate and multivariate Cox analyses).

Patients' characteristics	Number (%)	Univariate analysis		Multivariate analysis	
		546	HR (95%CI)	p-value	HR (95%CI)	p-value
Age					
18–39	104 (19.0)	1		1	
40–59	302 (55.3)	1.00 [0.8–1.3]	0.93	0.86 [0.7–1.1]	0.16
60–69	108 (19.8)	1.04[0.8–1.4]	0.74	0.89 [0.7–1.2]	0.20
≥70	32 (5.9)	1.61[1.1–2.4]	0.02	1.72 [1.1–2.6]	0.01
Gender					
Men	336 (61.5)	1.01 [0.8–1.2]	0.90	0.95 [0.8–1.2]	0.71
Women	210 (38.5)	1		1	
Occupation status					
No	281 (56.1)	1			
Yes	220 (43.9)	1.12 [0.9–1.3]	0.23		
Blood group					
O	258 (47.3)	1		1	
A	207 (37.9)	1.95 [1.6–2.4]	<0.001	2.17 [1.8–2.8]	<0.001
B	22 (4.0)	0.69 [0.5–0.9]	0.02	0.70 [0.5–0.9]	0.045
AB	59 (10.8)	2.08 [1.3–3.3]	0.002	1.89 [1.1–3.13]	0.047
Panel Reactive Antibody (PRA)					
%<85	525 (96.1)	1		1	
≥85	21 (3.9)	0.63 [0.4–1.0]	0.05	0.57 [0.4–0.93]	0.027
BMI*(kg/m2)					
<20	73 (13.9)	0.83 [0.6–1.1]	0.2	-	
[20–25[	232 (44.1)	1		-	
[25–30 [	141 (26.8)	0.94 [0.7–1.2]	0.61	-	
[30–35 [	67(12.7)	0.78 [0.6–1.1]	0.11	-	
≥35	13 (2.5)	0.93 [0.5–1.7]	0.81	-	
Serum albumin (g/dl)					
<30	52 (11.0)	0.76 [0.5–1.1]	0.09	-	
≥30	420 (89)	1		-	
Hemoglobin (g/dl)					
<10	163 (31.8)	1.01 [0.8–1.3]	0.85		
[10–12[	232 (45.2)	1			
≥12	118 (23)	0.93 [0.7–1.2]	0.58		
Type of dialysis					
HD	473 (86.6)	0.88 [0.7–1.2]	0.37		
DP	73 (13.4)	1			
Ownership of dialysis facility					
Private	318 (58.2)	1.17 [1.0–1.4]	0.09	-	
Public, non-university	198 (36.3)	1		-	
Public, university	30 (5.5)	1.33 [0.9–2.1]	0.19	-	
Emergency first dialysis session					
Yes	115 (21.1)	0.95 [0.8–1.2]	0.67		
No	423 (77.5)	1			
Primary renal disease					
APKD**	110 (20.2)	1		-	
Hypertensive & vascular	61 (11.2)	1.03 [0.7–1.4]	0.83	-	

(Continued)

Table 2. (Continued)

Patients' characteristics	Number (%)	Univariate analysis		Multivariate analysis	
		546	HR (95%CI)	p-value	HR (95%CI)	p-value
Other & unknown	164 (30.0)	0.71 [0.6–0.99]	0.04	-	
Diabetes	41 (7.5)	0.65 [0.4–0.98]	0.04	-	
Glomerulonephritis	124 (22.7)	0.91 [0.7–1.2]	0.51	-	
Pyelonephritis	46 (8.4)	0.98 [0.7–1.4]	0.92	-	
Cardiovascular disease					
Yes	114 (21.6)	0.84 [0.7–1.1]	0.15	0.74 [0.6–0.9]	0.017
No	414 (78.4)	1		1	
Chronic respiratory disease					
Yes	28 (5.3)	0.67 [0.43–1.0]	0.07	-	
No	495 (94.6)	1		-	
Active malignancy					
Yes	13 (2.5)	0.46 [0.2–0.97]	0.04	-	
No	504 (97.5)	1		-	
Diabetes					
Yes	86 (16.3)	0.70 [0.5–0.9]	0.01	-	
No	443 (83.7)	1		-	
Physical disabilities					
Yes	19 (3.6)	0.58 [0.3–1.0]	0.07	-	
No	506 (96.4)	1		-	
Hepatic disease					
Yes	5 (1.0)	0.72 [0.2–2.3]	0.57		
No	512 (99.0)	1			
Neighborhood deprivation					
Low	129 (23.6)	0.88 [0.7–1.1]	0.29	0.86 [0.7–1.1]	0.26
Moderate	165 (30.2)	0.99 [0.8–1.2]	0.95	1.03 [0.8–1.3]	0.90
High	252 (46.2)	1		1	
Degree of urbanization					
Rural	277 (50.7)	0.97 [0.8–1.2]	0.76		
Urban	269 (49.3)	1			

* Body Mass Index

** Polycystic kidney disease

HD: hemodialysis; PD: peritoneal dialysis

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0153431.t002

diabetes and active malignancy at first dialysis, diabetic nephropathy (compared with polycystic kidney disease) and hyperimmunisation (PRA \geq 85%) were associated with lower access to renal transplantation. Neighborhood deprivation and rural/urban typology were not significantly associated with access to renal transplantation.

(b) Multivariate analysis. Patients aged \geq 70 years (compared with the 18–39 year/old group) were 72% more likely to receive a transplant. Conversely, all clinical data at first dialysis, type of primary renal disease and type of first dialysis were no longer associated with the probability of undergoing transplantation. Among comorbidities, only cardiovascular diseases remained significantly associated with a lower probability of transplantation (aHR = 0.74 95%CI: [0.6–0.9]).

Patients with A or AB blood group were still more likely (two times) to receive a kidney transplant than O group patients. Conversely, B blood group and high degree of immunization

were associated with a lower probability of receiving a renal transplant (aHR = 0.70 95%CI: [0.5–0.9]; aHR = 0.57 95%CI: [0.4–0.93], respectively).

After adjustment for the patients' features, the likelihood of renal transplantation was not significantly different in the different socio-economic areas, although it was slightly lower for patients living in advantaged neighborhoods than for patients living in deprived areas (aHR = 0.86 95%CI: [0.7–1.1]).

Patients' survival (Table 3)

(a) Univariate analysis. Low BMI (<20 kg/m²), low serum albumin level (<30 g/dl), presence of comorbidities, physical disabilities, emergency first dialysis and all primary renal diseases (compared with polycystic kidney disease) were significantly associated with higher mortality risk. Compared with patients followed in public non university centers, the mortality risk was lower for patients followed in private centers and higher for those followed in public university facilities. Transplantation during the follow-up period was associated with lower mortality risk. Neighborhood deprivation was significantly associated with higher mortality; conversely, the degree of urbanization was not associated with the mortality risk.

(b) Multivariate analysis. Patients aged between 18 and 39 (compared with the ≥70 year/old group) had a lower risk of death (aHR: 0.18[0.1–0.4]). Patients with a cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, active malignancy, or physical disabilities had a higher mortality risk (aHR = 1.83 95%CI: [1.5–2.2]; aHR = 1.40 95%CI: [1.1–1.7]; aHR = 1.51 95%CI: [1.2–1.89]; aHR = 1.81 95%CI: [1.5–2.2], respectively). Low BMI values (<20 g/dl) were associated with higher probability of death (aHR = 1.43 95%CI: [1.0–1.8]). Transplantation during the follow-up period was associated with lower probability of death (aHR = 0.25 95%CI: [0.2–0.4]).

After adjustment for the patients' clinical features, the likelihood of mortality was no longer associated with neighborhood deprivation, although it was slightly lower among patients living in advantaged than among those living in deprived areas (aHR = 0.98 95%CI: [0.8–1.2]).

Discussion

This first contextual study in France on the role of socio-economic factors in the access to renal transplantation or patients' survival shows that, after taking into account the patients' clinical features, neighborhood deprivation and degree of urbanization are not associated with access to the renal transplant waiting list, transplantation after placement on the list or survival.

To our knowledge, no other study on the access to renal transplantation has taken into account both patients' clinical features and neighborhood characteristics (socio-economic level and urbanization degree) at a fine spatial level in mixed urban and rural areas. Indeed, most studies focused either on racial disparities or on poverty [18,23], without considering the urbanization degree [8,16,30,31]. Moreover, in contrast with previous reports from the USA, the UK and Scotland [8,19,32–37], our study took into account all major comorbidities.

Although our univariate analysis showed that patients living in highly deprived neighborhoods had less chance to be placed on the waiting list, this association did not remain after taking into account other patients' characteristics. In the USA [16–18,38] and in the UK [8,19], all studies found that patients living in a highly deprived neighborhood were less likely to be placed on the waiting list. Moreover, a higher social adaptability index (SAI) was associated with increased likelihood of being wait-listed [16].

Our findings show that the likelihood of renal transplantation after placement on the list and risk of death were slightly, but not significantly, lower among patients living in advantaged neighborhoods. Contradictory results were reported by previous epidemiological studies. Indeed, while some authors found that patients had an equal chance of transplantation,

Table 3. Association between patients' characteristics at first dialysis and mortality (univariate and multivariate Cox analyses).

Patients' characteristics		Univariate analysis		Multivariate analysis	
		HR (95%CI)	p-value	HR (95%CI)	p-value
Age					
	18–39	0.05 [0.0–0.1]	<0.001	0.18 [0.1–0.4]	<0.001
	40–59	0.18 [0.1–0.2]	<0.001	0.40 [0.3–0.5]	<0.001
	60–69	0.42 [0.3–0.5]	<0.001	0.47 [0.4–0.6]	<0.001
	> = 70	1		1	
Sex					
	Men	1.11 [0.98–1.3]	0.09	1.1 [0.9–1.34]	0.120
	women	1		1	
Occupation status					
	Yes	0.09 [0.06–0.15]	<0.001	-	-
	No	1			
BMI*(kg/m2)					
	<20	1.27 [1.04–1.6]	0.01	1.43 [1.-1.8]	0.003
	[20–25[	1		1	
	[25–30 [	1.00 [0.8–1.2]	0.92	0.90 [0.7–1.1]	0.30
	[30–35 [	0.99 [0.8–1.2]	0.96	0.87 [0.7–1.1]	0.33
	≥35	0.82 [0.6–1.0]	0.33	0.63 [0.4–1.04]	0.06
Serum albumin (g/dl)					
	<30	1.80 [1.5–2.1]	<0.001	1.3 [1.1–1.6]	0.003
	≥30	1		1	
Hemoglobin (g/dl)					
	<10	1.05 [0.9–1.2]	0.48	-	
	[10–12[	1		-	
	≥12	0.83 [0.7–1.0]	0.06	-	
Type of dialysis					
	HD	0.82 [0.7–0.99]	0.05	0.77 [0.6–0.96]	0.026
	DP	1		1	
Emergency first dialysis session					
	Yes	1.31 [1.1–1.5]	<0.001	-	-
	No	1		-	
Renal transplantation					
	Yes	0.08 [0.05–0.1]	<0.001	0.25 [0.2–0.4]	<0.001
	No	1		1	
Primary renal disease					
	APKD**	1		1	
	Hypertensive & vascular	5.38 [3.6–8.0]	<0.001	2.50 [1.5–4.17]	<0.001
	Other & unknown	4.44 [3.0–6.6]	<0.001	2.70 [1.6–4.5]	<0.001
	Diabetes	4.32 [2.8–6.6]	<0.001	2.64 [1.5–4.6]	<0.001
	Glomerulonephritis	2.16 [1.4–3.3]	<0.001	1.72 [0.99–2.99]	0.053
	Pyelonephritis	2.45 [1.5–4.0]	<0.001	2.32 [1.3–4.28]	0.007
Ownership of dialysis facility					
	Private	0.64 [0.6–0.7]	<0.001	-	-
	Public, non-university	1		-	-
	Public university	1.49 [1.2–1.8]	<0.001	-	-
Cardiovascular disease					
	Yes	3.40 [2.9–3.9]	<0.001	1.83 [1.5–2.2]	<0.001

(Continued)

Table 3. (Continued)

Patients' characteristics	Univariate analysis		Multivariate analysis	
	HR (95%CI)	p-value	HR (95%CI)	p-value
No	1		1	
Chronic respiratory disease				
Yes	1.76 [1.5–2.1]	<0.001	1.40 [1.1–1.7]	0.002
No	1		1	
Active malignancy				
Yes	2.33[1.9–2.8]	<0.001	1.51 [1.2–1.89]	<0.001
No	1		1	
Diabetes				
Yes	1.44[1.2–1.7]	<0.001	-	
No	1		-	
Physical disabilities				
Yes	2.94 [2.5–3.4]	<0.001	1.8 [1.5–2.2]	<0.001
No	1		1	
Hepatic disease				
Yes	1.64 [1.2–2.2]	0.001	-	
No	1		-	
Neighborhood deprivation				
Low	0.82 [0.7–0.98]	0.03	0.98 [0.8–1.24]	0.9
Moderate	1.02[0.9–1.2]	0.73	1.13 [0.95–1.35]	0.13
High	1		1	
Degree of urbanization				
Urban	1.06[0.9–1.2]	0.35		
Rural	1			

* Body Mass Index

** Polycystic kidney disease

HD: hemodialysis; PD: peritoneal dialysis

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0153431.t003

regardless of their socioeconomic status [8,39], others showed that patients living in advantaged neighborhoods had a greater likelihood of receiving a transplant [16,31]). Conversely, neighborhood poverty [40] or lower median income [17] was associated with a reduced probability of transplantation [17]). Another study found that neighborhoods with low level of deprivation were associated with reduced mortality risk [30] and that mortality was higher for patients living in the poorest areas [40] only among Asians and Pacific Islanders. On the other hand, another work reported that the risk of death was lower among patients living in deprived neighborhoods [31].

Overall, studies carried out in the USA and UK show that neighborhood deprivation plays an important role; conversely, our study suggests that neighborhood deprivation is not a determinant factor for receiving renal transplantation. These conflicting results may be due to health care system differences between the USA, the UK and France (universal health care system). Indeed, this finding is plausible because in France, the national health insurance system covers the entire population. Moreover, people living in deprived neighborhoods have often more comorbidities (diabetes, cardiovascular diseases. . .) and malnutrition. These factors can limit the access to the waiting list. Therefore, if the patient's medical condition is not taken into account during the analysis, the neighborhood deprivation effect may in reality reflect the

comorbidity influence [14]. In addition, neighborhood deprivation may be associated with nephrologists' clinical practice patterns. Our study was performed in Bretagne where there are two transplantation centers. This might have reduced the bias related to clinical practice variations and increased the possibility to analyze factors directly related to patients.

These conflicting results could also be partially explained by the use of different deprivation measures (composite indexes [31], SAI [16,30], Carstairs score [8] or Townsend [19], poverty level [18,38,40] and income level [17]) to study how the access to the waiting list and to kidney transplant is affected by socio-economic variables. In our work, we used a neighborhood deprivation index that included variables related to education, income, occupation, unemployment and immigration to cover different dimensions of deprivation in rural and urban settings. This deprivation index has been validated and previously used to demonstrate socio-economic gradients in the incidence of ESRD in Bretagne [22] and of infant mortality in Lyon [41,42].

The second main finding of our study is that the degree of urbanization, like the neighborhood socio-economic features, does not influence the access to the transplant waiting list, to transplantation after being wait-listed and patients' survival. A few recent studies revealed conflicting results. A study found that the urbanization degree of the patient's residence was not associated with the time on the waiting listing [38]. Conversely, other works have shown that the likelihood of placement on the list [43] and of transplantation [43] was slightly, but significantly higher for people living in rural areas than for those residing in urban areas. Studies in the USA found that white non-Hispanic and Native American patients living in rural areas were more likely to undergo transplantation than those living in urban areas [44]. Conversely, in Rotterdam, low urbanization grade significantly and negatively influenced the chance of living donor transplantation [39].

Our study has some limitations. Race/ethnic differences were not recorded in the French ESRD registry because the French legislation does not allow collecting this kind of information. Data about the individual socio-economic status and about individual preferences were not available and were thus not included in our analysis. However, we chose a fine geographical scale, designed to be as homogeneous as possible in terms of socio-economic characteristics. The census block homogeneity allowed minimizing the ecological bias and the results can be considered as close as possible to what can be observed at the individual level.

Conclusion

In this study, we assessed social inequalities at a fine scale in a mixed rural and urban French region. Our results show that, after taking into account all major patients' clinical characteristics, patients living in deprived neighborhoods and those living in advantaged ones had the same chance to be placed on the waiting list, to be transplanted and the same mortality risk. In France where everybody is covered by the national health insurance, the association observed, in univariate analysis, between higher neighborhood deprivation and lower access to renal transplantation is more related to the patients' clinical features than to socio-economic factors, or nephrologists' clinical practices.

Acknowledgments

This study was supported by grants from French Biomedicine Agency. We would like to thank all REIN registry participants including the professionals who collected the data (<http://www.agence-biomedecine.fr/Le-programme-REIN#8>) and Dr COUCHOUD Cécile (cecile.couchoud@biomedecine.fr) the lead author for the REIN registry and a co-author of this paper. We thank Elisabetta Andermarcher for critical reading and editing of the manuscript

Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: WK CV SD MS CC SB. Performed the experiments: WK CV SD MS CC SB. Analyzed the data: WK CV SD SB. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: WK CV SD SB. Wrote the paper: WK CV SD MS CC SB. Collected health data: WK MS. Geocoded the cases to the census-block level: WK. Guarantees quality assurance and rigor: CV. Interpretation of results: WK CV SD SB. The drafting of article: WK CV SD CC SB.

References

1. Evans JM, Newton RW, Ruta DA, MacDonald TM, Morris AD. Socio-economic status, obesity and prevalence of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes mellitus. *Diabet Med*. 2000; 17: 478–480. PMID: [10975218](#)
2. Laupacis A, Keown P, Pus N, Krueger H, Ferguson B, Wong C, et al. A study of the quality of life and cost-utility of renal transplantation. *Kidney Int*. 1996; 50: 235–242. PMID: [8807593](#)
3. Port FK, Wolfe RA, Mauger EA, Berling DP, Jiang K. Comparison of survival probabilities for dialysis patients vs cadaveric renal transplant recipients. *JAMA*. 1993; 270: 1339–1343. PMID: [8360969](#)
4. Wolfe RA, Ashby VB, Milford EL, Ojo AO, Ettenger RE, Agodoa LY, et al. Comparison of mortality in all patients on dialysis, patients on dialysis awaiting transplantation, and recipients of a first cadaveric transplant. *N Engl J Med*. 1999; 341: 1725–1730. doi: [10.1056/NEJM199912023412303](#) PMID: [10580071](#)
5. Meier-Kriesche H-U, Schold JD, Srinivas TR, Reed A, Kaplan B. Kidney transplantation halts cardiovascular disease progression in patients with end-stage renal disease. *Am J Transplant*. 2004; 4: 1662–1668. doi: [10.1111/j.1600-6143.2004.00573.x](#) PMID: [15367222](#)
6. Couchoud C, Bayat S, Villar E, Jacquelinet C, Ecochard R, REIN registry. A new approach for measuring gender disparity in access to renal transplantation waiting lists. *Transplantation*. 2012; 94: 513–519. doi: [10.1097/TP.0b013e31825d156a](#) PMID: [22895611](#)
7. Bayat S, Macher MA, Couchoud C, Bayer F, Lassalle M, Villar E, et al. Individual and regional factors of access to the renal transplant waiting list in france in a cohort of dialyzed patients. *Am J Transplant*. 2015; 15: 1050–1060. doi: [10.1111/ajt.13095](#) PMID: [25758788](#)
8. Oniscu GC, Schalkwijk AAH, Johnson RJ, Brown H, Forsythe JLR. Equity of access to renal transplant waiting list and renal transplantation in Scotland: cohort study. *BMJ*. 2003; 327: 1261. doi: [10.1136/bmj.327.7426.1261](#) PMID: [14644969](#)
9. Garg PP, Furth SL, Fivush BA, Powe NR. Impact of gender on access to the renal transplant waiting list for pediatric and adult patients. *J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2000; 11: 958–964. PMID: [10770976](#)
10. Miskulin DC, Meyer KB, Martin AA, Fink NE, Coresh J, Powe NR, et al. Comorbidity and its change predict survival in incident dialysis patients. *Am J Kidney Dis*. 2003; 41: 149–161. doi: [10.1053/ajkd.2003.50034](#) PMID: [12500232](#)
11. Keith D, Ashby VB, Port FK, Leichtman AB. Insurance type and minority status associated with large disparities in prelisting dialysis among candidates for kidney transplantation. *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2008; 3: 463–470. doi: [10.2215/CJN.02220507](#) PMID: [18199847](#)
12. Sandhu GS, Khattak M, Pavlakis M, Woodward R, Hanto DW, Wasilewski MA, et al. Recipient's unemployment restricts access to renal transplantation. *Clin Transplant*. 2013; 27: 598–606. doi: [10.1111/ctr.12177](#) PMID: [23808849](#)
13. Schaeffner ES, Mehta J, Winkelmayer WC. Educational level as a determinant of access to and outcomes after kidney transplantation in the United States. *Am J Kidney Dis*. 2008; 51: 811–818. doi: [10.1053/ajkd.2008.01.019](#) PMID: [18436092](#)
14. Hommel K, Rasmussen S, Kamper A-L, Madsen M. Regional and social inequalities in chronic renal replacement therapy in Denmark. *Nephrol Dial Transplant*. 2010; 25: 2624–2632. doi: [10.1093/ndt/gfq110](#) PMID: [20207710](#)
15. Young EW, Mauger EA, Jiang KH, Port FK, Wolfe RA. Socioeconomic status and end-stage renal disease in the United States. *Kidney Int*. 1994; 45: 907–911. PMID: [8196296](#)
16. Goldfarb-Rumyantzev AS, Sandhu GS, Baird BC, Khattak M, Barenbaum A, Hanto DW. Social Adaptability Index predicts access to kidney transplantation. *Clin Transplant*. 2011; 25: 834–842. doi: [10.1111/j.1399-0012.2010.01391.x](#) PMID: [21269329](#)
17. Schold JD, Gregg JA, Harman JS, Hall AG, Patton PR, Meier-Kriesche H-U. Barriers to evaluation and wait listing for kidney transplantation. *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2011; 6: 1760–1767. doi: [10.2215/CJN.08620910](#) PMID: [21597030](#)

18. Saunders MR, Cagney KA, Ross LF, Alexander GC. Neighborhood poverty, racial composition and renal transplant waitlist. *Am J Transplant*. 2010; 10: 1912–1917. doi: [10.1111/j.1600-6143.2010.03206.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1600-6143.2010.03206.x) PMID: [20659097](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20659097/)
19. Dudley CRK, Johnson RJ, Thomas HL, Ravanan R, Ansell D. Factors that influence access to the national renal transplant waiting list. *Transplantation*. 2009; 88: 96–102. doi: [10.1097/TP.0b013e3181aa901a](https://doi.org/10.1097/TP.0b013e3181aa901a) PMID: [19584687](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19584687/)
20. Morton RL, Schlackow I, Mihaylova B, Staplin ND, Gray A, Cass A. The impact of social disadvantage in moderate-to-severe chronic kidney disease: an equity-focused systematic review. *Nephrol Dial Transplant*. 2015; doi: [10.1093/ndt/gfu394](https://doi.org/10.1093/ndt/gfu394)
21. Perneger TV, Brancati FL, Whelton PK, Klag MJ. End-stage renal disease attributable to diabetes mellitus. *Ann Intern Med*. 1994; 121: 912–918. PMID: [7978716](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/7978716/)
22. Kihal-Talantikite W, Deguen S, Padilla C, Siebert M, Couchoud C, Vigneau C, et al. Spatial distribution of end-stage renal disease (ESRD) and social inequalities in mixed urban and rural areas: a study in the Bretagne administrative region of France. *Clin Kidney J*. 2015; 8: 7–13. doi: [10.1093/ckj/stu131](https://doi.org/10.1093/ckj/stu131) PMID: [25713704](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25713704/)
23. Joshi S, Gaynor J, Ciancio G. Review of ethnic disparities in access to renal transplantation. *Clin Transplant*. 2012; 26: E337–343. doi: [10.1111/j.1399-0012.2012.01679.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1399-0012.2012.01679.x) PMID: [22775991](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22775991/)
24. Couchoud C, Stengel B, Landais P, Aldigier J-C, de Cornelissen F, Dabot C, et al. The renal epidemiology and information network (REIN): a new registry for end-stage renal disease in France. *Nephrol Dial Transplant*. 2006; 21: 411–418. doi: [10.1093/ndt/gfi198](https://doi.org/10.1093/ndt/gfi198) PMID: [16234286](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/16234286/)
25. Strang WN, Tuppin P, Atinault A, Jacquelinet C. The French organ transplant data system. *Stud Health Technol Inform*. 2005; 116: 77–82. PMID: [16160239](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/16160239/)
26. van Eupen M, Metzger MJ, Pérez-Soba M, Verburg PH, van Doorn A, Bunce RGH. A rural typology for strategic European policies. *Land Use Policy*. 2012; 29: 473–482. doi: [10.1016/j.landusepol.2011.07.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2011.07.007)
27. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *Creating rural indicators for shaping territorial policy*. Paris; Washington, D.C.: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; OECD Publications and Information Centre [distributor]; 1994.
28. Vard T, Willems E, Lemmens E, Peters R. Use of the CORINE land cover to identify the rural character of communes and regions at EU level. *Trends of some agri-environmental indicators of the European Union*, EUR 21669. 2005.
29. Lalloué B, Monnez J-M, Padilla C, Kihal W, Le Meur N, Zmirou-Navier D, et al. A statistical procedure to create a neighborhood socioeconomic index for health inequalities analysis. *Int J Equity Health*. 2013; 12: 21. doi: [10.1186/1475-9276-12-21](https://doi.org/10.1186/1475-9276-12-21) PMID: [23537275](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23537275/)
30. Garg J, Karim M, Tang H, Sandhu GS, DeSilva R, Rodrigue JR, et al. Social adaptability index predicts kidney transplant outcome: a single-center retrospective analysis. *Nephrol Dial Transplant*. 2012; 27: 1239–1245. doi: [10.1093/ndt/gfr445](https://doi.org/10.1093/ndt/gfr445) PMID: [22036942](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22036942/)
31. Axelrod DA, Dzebisashvili N, Schnitzler MA, Salvalaggio PR, Segev DL, Gentry SE, et al. The interplay of socioeconomic status, distance to center, and interdonor service area travel on kidney transplant access and outcomes. *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2010; 5: 2276–2288. doi: [10.2215/CJN.04940610](https://doi.org/10.2215/CJN.04940610) PMID: [20798250](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20798250/)
32. Wolfe RA, Ashby VB, Milford EL, Bloembergen WE, Agodoa LY, Held PJ, et al. Differences in access to cadaveric renal transplantation in the United States. *Am J Kidney Dis*. 2000; 36: 1025–1033. doi: [10.1053/ajkd.2000.19106](https://doi.org/10.1053/ajkd.2000.19106) PMID: [11054361](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/11054361/)
33. Alexander GC, Sehgal AR. Barriers to cadaveric renal transplantation among blacks, women, and the poor. *JAMA*. 1998; 280: 1148–1152. PMID: [9777814](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/9777814/)
34. Sequist TD, Narva AS, Stiles SK, Karp SK, Cass A, Ayanian JZ. Access to renal transplantation among American Indians and Hispanics. *Am J Kidney Dis*. 2004; 44: 344–352. PMID: [15264194](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15264194/)
35. Satayathum S, Pisoni RL, McCullough KP, Merion RM, Wikström B, Levin N, et al. Kidney transplantation and wait-listing rates from the international Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study (DOPPS). *Kidney Int*. 2005; 68: 330–337. doi: [10.1111/j.1523-1755.2005.00412.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1523-1755.2005.00412.x) PMID: [15954924](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15954924/)
36. Garg PP, Frick KD, Diener-West M, Powe NR. Effect of the ownership of dialysis facilities on patients' survival and referral for transplantation. *N Engl J Med*. 1999; 341: 1653–1660. doi: [10.1056/NEJM199911253412205](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJM199911253412205) PMID: [10572154](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10572154/)
37. Mathur AK, Ashby VB, Sands RL, Wolfe RA. Geographic variation in end-stage renal disease incidence and access to deceased donor kidney transplantation. *Am J Transplant*. 2010; 10: 1069–1080. doi: [10.1111/j.1600-6143.2010.03043.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1600-6143.2010.03043.x) PMID: [20420653](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20420653/)

38. Patzer RE, Amaral S, Wasse H, Volkova N, Kleinbaum D, McClellan WM. Neighborhood poverty and racial disparities in kidney transplant waitlisting. *J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2009; 20: 1333–1340. doi: [10.1681/ASN.2008030335](https://doi.org/10.1681/ASN.2008030335) PMID: [19339381](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19339381/)
39. Roodnat JI, Laging M, Massey EK, Kho M, Kal-van Gestel JA, Ijzermans JNM, et al. Accumulation of unfavorable clinical and socioeconomic factors precludes living donor kidney transplantation. *Transplantation*. 2012; 93: 518–523. doi: [10.1097/TP.0b013e318243030f](https://doi.org/10.1097/TP.0b013e318243030f) PMID: [22298031](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22298031/)
40. Hall YN, O'Hare AM, Young BA, Boyko EJ, Chertow GM. Neighborhood poverty and kidney transplantation among US Asians and Pacific Islanders with end-stage renal disease. *Am J Transplant*. 2008; 8: 2402–2409. doi: [10.1111/j.1600-6143.2008.02413.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1600-6143.2008.02413.x) PMID: [18808403](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18808403/)
41. Kihal-Talantikite W, Padilla CM, Lalloué B, Gelormini M, Zmirou-Navier D, Deguen S. Green space, social inequalities and neonatal mortality in France. *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth*. 2013; 13: 191. doi: [10.1186/1471-2393-13-191](https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2393-13-191) PMID: [24139283](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24139283/)
42. Kihal-Talantikite W, Padilla CM, Lalloué B, Rougier C, Defrance J, Zmirou-Navier D, et al. An exploratory spatial analysis to assess the relationship between deprivation, noise and infant mortality: an ecological study. *Environ Health*. 2013; 12: 109. doi: [10.1186/1476-069X-12-109](https://doi.org/10.1186/1476-069X-12-109) PMID: [24341620](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24341620/)
43. Tonelli M, Klarenbach S, Rose C, Wiebe N, Gill J. Access to kidney transplantation among remote- and rural-dwelling patients with kidney failure in the United States. *JAMA*. 2009; 301: 1681–1690. doi: [10.1001/jama.2009.545](https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2009.545) PMID: [19383959](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19383959/)
44. O'Hare AM, Johansen KL, Rodriguez RA. Dialysis and kidney transplantation among patients living in rural areas of the United States. *Kidney Int*. 2006; 69: 343–349. doi: [10.1038/sj.ki.5000044](https://doi.org/10.1038/sj.ki.5000044) PMID: [16408125](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/16408125/)