

Canberra Region Kidney Support Group

Kidney News

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the CRKSG

With assistance from the ACT Government under the Community Support and Infrastructure Grants Program

TCH Changes from Fresenius to Gambro Dialysis Machines

By Vince Maguire

Dialysis patients would already be aware of the shift from dialysis machines and supplies provided under contract by Fresenius to machines and supplies provided by Gambro under a new contract. The signature blue colour of the Gambro machines would be familiar to some of the old hands (both nurses and patients). ACT dialysis patients used Gambro AK-10 machines around twenty years ago.

A lot has changed since then. Any change of technology presents challenges to physicians, nurses, technicians, patients and their carers alike. The same old hands have been through this several times. Despite all the best efforts to be prepared for all possibilities, there are bound to be teething troubles. As with any medical treatment, the consequences can be serious. No-one should feel that their concerns won't be taken seriously. The chances are that there are others that have the same feelings, or are experiencing the same difficulties. The experienced dialysis nurses would logically be the first point of contact. If, for some reason, it is necessary for a concern to be expressed anonymously; remember to use your representative at RAMs (Renal Advisory Meetings). They will respect your confidentiality.

On the positive side, the new technology, once mastered, should provide some advances and the opportunity to improve the treatment provided to patients. That's worth putting effort into and something for us to look forward to.



Gambro AK200S
Similar to the new machines at the dialysis centres

We won't be able to produce a newsletter between mid-August and end-October, hence the Spring 2008 newsletter is a little early. The next available time for a newsletter won't be until early November 2008 and it was felt that might be too far away!

We may look at a better method of identifying newsletters, perhaps commencing next year so that we are not restricted to seasons.

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Kidney Health Australia's 'Kidney Koasters'

Kidney Health Australia's "Kidney Koasters" are heading to the Coast for a great cause!

The Sunday Mail City-Bay Adelaide's largest fun run, and this year it's going to get even bigger as for the first time, Kidney Health Australia is entering a team!

We would like to invite you to support the KHA team of runners or walkers the Kidney Koasters.

You can support this year's Sunday Mail City-Bay team by following the links via the website http://www.everydayhero.com.au/Kidney_Health_Australia. It only takes a few seconds to register.

If you require any further information on the Sunday Mail City-Bay Fun or how to sponsor the Kidney Koasters please don't hesitate to contact KHA on - 1800 4KIDNEY (1800 4543 639).

Kidney Kar Rally

Sixty cars will take to the road on August 16th in the 20th Kidney Kar Rally which will travel from Sydney to Mudgee via Mildura covering nearly 4000 kilometres through regional and country New South Wales and Victoria.

The rally which will not only raise urgently needed funds for the Kidney Kids Camps, it will also promote kidney health awareness to schools and communities along the way. Anne Wilson CEO of Kidney Health

Australia said with Chronic Kidney Disease being responsible for around one third of all hospital visits to Australia's public hospitals it was important to ensure people in high risk groups maintain a regular check on their kidneys.

Ms Wilson said, "Skyrocketing petrol prices had also compounded the difficulties of many patients in regional Australia on dialysis who had to travel three times a week to hospitals

for treatment to stay alive".

Travelling with the rally this year is Billy Kidney who is sure to be a favourite with children during stops in the many towns along the way.



Billy Kidney



Anne Wilson
CEO
Kidney Health Australia

Organ Harvester gets 27 Years

20 June 2008 — A member of an organ trafficking ring has been sentenced to 27 years in prison for illegally harvesting organs from more than 1000 bodies including that of former BBC personality Alistair Cooke.

Christopher Aldorasi was sentenced to the 27-year term and cannot seek parole until he has served nine years, Judge Albert Tomei ordered Wednesday.

Aldorasi and three colleagues, former dentist Michael Mastromarino, funeral services entrepreneur Joseph Nicelli and Lee Crucetta, were charged in 2006 with stealing organs and cell tissue from the bodies of dead people in a case investigators likened to a horror film.

Mastromarino and Crucetta pleaded guilty in March and will be sentenced later. Nicelli's case is still in the courts.

The former dentist, who had a business in New Jersey selling cell tissue for medical use, was believed to have made millions on illegal harvesting.

In February 2006 Brooklyn prosecutor Charles Hynes described how the men replaced victims' bones with PVC pipe to avoid raising any suspicions at funerals.

In the case of Cooke, who died of lung cancer in New York aged 95, his organs were labelled as those of a man who died at 85 of heart failure.

Investigators said the ring collected bones and organs from 1077 bodies over five years selling them around the world.

Calendar of Events

Support Group Meetings.

When: Quarterly on second Tuesday of each month.

11th November 2008, 10th February 2009, 12th May 2009 and 11th August 2009.

Where: The Pearce Community Centre
Building 1, Collett Place
Pearce ACT 2607.

When: 7:30 pm.

All welcome

Organ Transplantation Funding a Major Boost for Kidney Patients

2 July 2008 — Around 60% of all organ transplants carried out in Australia relate to the kidney.

Kidney Health Australia today said the strategy and funding announcement by the Federal Government to improve organ donation would provide a major boost for Kidney Patients who are forced to wait an average of four to six years on dialysis for a transplant.

Anne Wilson CEO of Kidney Health Australia said the announcement today by the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, is not only important because of extra funding, but vital, as it signalled a whole new approach to managing the sensitive issue of transplantation with a comprehensive package of initiatives.

Ms Wilson described the new organ transplantation initiatives as one of the most significant reforms for kidney patients on dialysis for the past decade.

"Importantly this will greatly assist in boosting the number of transplantations and help cut the cost of kidney disease in Australia.

"Dialysis costs Australian hospitals \$83,000 per person per year, compared to the cost of a kidney transplant - \$65,000 per recipient for the first year and \$11,000 a year each year following." Dr Tim Mathew, Medical Director of Kidney Health Australia said, "there are some 1800 people waiting on the organ transplant list. Around 60% of all organ transplants carried out relate to the kidney".

"From a medical practitioner's point of view, the initiatives announced by the Federal Government will complement the work already being done in our hospitals, with hospitals being better resourced to greatly improve the quality of life of many Australians and their families", Dr Mathew said.

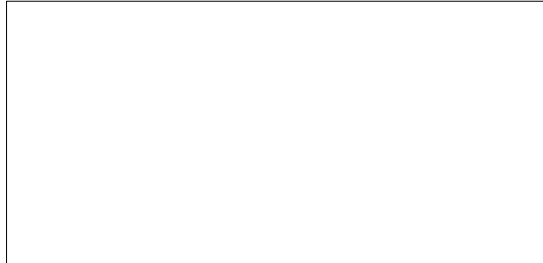
FAST FACTS ON CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE IN AUSTRALIA

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is a significant and growing public health problem, responsible for substantial burden of illness and premature mortality. In Australia, it is a fact that:

- 1 in 3 adults are at increased risk of developing CKD
- 1 in 7 adults have at least one clinical sign of existing CKD
- A person can lose up to 90% of their kidney function before experiencing any symptoms
- Approximately 2 million Australians may be affected by early-stage kidney disease and don't know it
- Over 40 Australians die of kidney failure each day
- 11.3% of all deaths in Australia are due to, or associated with, kidney failure
- Every day, 6 Australians commence expensive dialysis or transplantation to stay alive
- Most people with CKD will die from cardiovascular causes before requiring dialysis or transplantation
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders experience excessive death and disability due to CKD.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Canberra Region Kidney Support Group Inc
PO Box 5051 GARRAN ACT 2605.
ABN: 77 396 063 641

Last Name: **First Name:**

Address:.....

Email:

Phone No:

I would like to make a voluntary donation to CRKSG for the amount of: \$..... Membership is free. All donations \$2 or more are tax deductible. Cheque/Money Order payable to CRKSG Inc. Please accept this application for membership of the Canberra Region Kidney Support Group Inc.

Signature: **Date:**.....

Post Form to:

The Treasurer
Canberra Region Kidney Support Group Inc
PO Box 5051
GARRAN ACT 2605.

NOTE: This form may also be used to notify a change of address/contact details.