Acute Renal Failure

Renal failure occurs when the kidneys are unable to do their job: to filter wastes from the blood, help regulate blood pressure, and regulate salt and water balances in the body. As blood flows through the kidneys, it is filtered, and wastes are removed and sent to the bladder as urine. If kidney function becomes impaired, acute (rapid) or chronic (gradually developing) renal failure may occur. With acute renal failure, kidney function can return to normal if the underlying cause of the failure is discovered and successfully treated.

The November 27, 2002, issue of JAMA includes an article about treatment of acute renal failure.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
• National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases
  800/891-5390
  www.niddk.nih.gov
• National Kidney Foundation
  800/622-9010
  www.kidney.org
• Kidney & Urology Foundation of America
  800/633-6628
  www.kidneyurology.org
• American Association of Kidney Patients
  800/749-2257
  www.aakp.org
• American Kidney Fund
  800/638-8299
  www.akfinc.org

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To find this and previous JAMA Patient Pages, go to the Patient Page Index on JAMA’s Web site at www.jama.com.
A Patient Page on kidney failure was published in the December 12, 2001, issue.

Sources: Kidney & Urology Foundation of America, National Kidney Foundation, National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases

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