

## News Release

EMCSG07  
1 April 2010

### **Revolutionary new kidney transplants done for the first time in the East Midlands**

Two patients, from Derby and Leicester, are the first in the East Midlands to receive new kidneys from their partners, thanks to recent improvements in transplant technology.

Prasanta Chakraborti from Derby and Carolyn Mayston from Leicester have been given a new lease of life after being the first in the East Midlands to undergo an innovative new procedure which means some patients needing a kidney transplant can now receive a kidney from a live donor even if the blood groups don't match. Although kidney transplants aren't suitable for everyone with kidney disease, for those who are, until recently if there was no live donor with the same blood group a patient had to remain on a waiting list until a suitable match was found. But now the technique has given hope to patients with end stage renal failure that more donors will come forward.

The East Midlands Specialised Commissioning Group (EMSCG), the organisation with responsibility for planning, buying and managing all specialised health services including specialised renal services on behalf all nine East Midlands primary care trusts (PCTs), has invested £297k in a new ABO incompatible renal transplant service for the next 12 months, so up to ten patients per year from across the region can now receive new kidneys in this way, alleviating the need for the patient to receive dialysis several times each week.

The operations are carried out at transplant centres at Nottingham University Hospitals (NUH) NHS Trust's City Hospital campus and University Hospitals of Leicester's (UHL's) General Hospital site. Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire patients are treated at UHL and Southern Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire patients are treated at NUH.

70 year old retired GP Prasanta Chakrabroti was the first in the region to undergo the revolutionary technique. He was given a kidney by his wife Alaka on 20 January at NUH's City Hospital campus. He said: "I spent two weeks in hospital and two weeks in the patients' hotel and attended the transplant clinic after my transplant. I've received the best possible care by everyone in the transplant team at NUH City Hospital campus – my pre and post operative care has been brilliant and I can't praise the transplant team enough. Needless to say I have the most fantastic and selfless wife. I want to thank her from the bottom of my heart for giving me this most precious gift an a new life with qualities.

"The transplant has changed my life. After retiring five years ago we haven't been able to enjoy holidays more than a few days long as I was tied to four to five hour dialysis sessions at Derby Hospitals three times per week – week in week out. Just over two months have gone since we had our operations and we are almost back to our normal life. Now my wife and I are planning on going on lots of long holidays to make up for lost time. We can really start enjoying our retirement!

Mrs Chakrabroti had to undergo a number of tests to prove she was medically fit to donate one of her kidneys to her husband. This new technique involves the recipient being given anti rejection therapy in the month prior to the operation to suppress their immune system. A machine not unlike a dialysis machine washes the patient's blood for three hour treatment cycles to help filter out the incompatible antibodies, meaning once the patient receives a transplanted kidney they are less likely to reject it. Once the donated organ has been transplanted into the recipient, rejection is treatable with extra medication.

Dr Gavin McHaffie, consultant nephrologist at Nottingham Renal and Transplant Unit said: "The use of this transplant technology in the East Midlands is fantastic news for our patients. The Nottingham and Leicester transplant teams collaborated closely to ensure that each patient's pre-operative therapy went smoothly and are delighted that the results have been excellent. We hope to build on our experience and offer this treatment to other suitable donor-recipient pairs in the near future."

Carolyn Mayston who received her kidney from partner Alan Rainbird on 21 January at University Hospitals of Leicester, said: “By mid 2009 my partner and I were facing the cold reality of my total renal failure and by the end of October with no suitable donor available the only option was the unlikely availability of a kidney from a deceased donor. My partner has an incompatible blood type and that appeared to close all doors for us.

“However in late 2009 we were contacted renal staff at Leicester General Hospital and told of the ABO transplant procedure. Now, thanks to Leicester’s Hospitals we have a future together and we are so grateful for that.

“Perhaps most importantly, my partner and I really hope that what we have recently experienced will bring new hope to those others experiencing similar blood incompatibility situations to know that for some this new technology can really change lives and that in the hands of all in Leicester General your hopes and aspirations really can be realised.”

Professor Michael Nicholson, professor of transplant surgery at UHL, said: “Until recently, kidney transplants had to be performed between patients with compatible blood groups, in the same way that blood transfusions can only be performed between patients that do not react against each other. The need for matching arises because patients with different blood groups have antibodies against red blood cells of patients with incompatible blood groups. These antibodies can also destroy kidney cells. Advances in technology have lead to a number of methods which can successfully remove the offending antibodies and, because of this, it is now sometimes possible to perform kidney transplants between patients with, what would previously be regarded as, incompatible or wrong blood groups.”

Kate Caston, director of the EMSCG said: “This new procedure does offer real hope to more people in need of a new kidney than ever before. Thanks to £297k investment from the nine primary care trusts in the East Midlands the East Midlands Specialised Commissioning Group has been able to fund this new renal transplant service, making such a huge difference to the lives of up to ten patients each year

from across our region subject to suitable donors coming forward. This funding pays for the extra treatment required on top of the cost of a kidney transplant.”

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Word count: 1,054

**For further information or to request interviews/photo/filming opportunities with the patients and/or Nottingham or Leicester clinical teams please contact EMSCG's communications consultant Jo Travis on ddl: 0116 295 0866, blackberry: 0792 053 4480 or by email: [jo.travis@emscg.nhs.uk](mailto:jo.travis@emscg.nhs.uk) or the relevant trust press office on:**

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### **Notes to Editors**

The East Midlands Specialised Commissioning Group was established in 2007 and has responsibility for planning, buying and managing all specialised services which treat patients who usually have rare conditions. It has an annual budget of £600m (2009/10) and works on behalf of all PCTs in the NHS East Midlands area, covering Bassetlaw, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland.

There are currently 35 nationally defined specialised services. Services that are classed as specialised include renal dialysis, certain cancer services including blood and marrow transplantation and special types of radiotherapy, cystic fibrosis and specialised mental health services etc. These services affect small numbers of people and tend to be expensive because of the nature of the treatments involved, so are a complex and costly element of the portfolio of services provided by the NHS.

For further information please log on to: [www.emscg.nhs.uk](http://www.emscg.nhs.uk)

NUH is one of the largest Trusts in the UK, with an annual budget of more than £682 million. It was formed on 1 April 2006, when two top-rated trusts - Queen's Medical Centre and Nottingham City Hospital - merged in order to develop a range of high-quality, sustainable patient services across the two campuses.

As a major teaching Trust, NUH enjoys close links with the city's universities and attracts and develops the highest calibre of staff. It continues to be the hospital of choice for patients, encourage investment and remain at the forefront of research.

It has one of the busiest emergency departments in the UK and has a total of 2,100 hospital beds across both campuses.