

Instructions for use of the Dialysis vs. Kidney Transplant- Estimated Survival in Ontario Risk Calculator

Please review this document prior to using the Dialysis vs. Kidney Transplant- Estimated Survival in Ontario website.

The Dialysis vs. Kidney Transplant- Estimated Survival in Ontario risk calculator is a tool for patients receiving maintenance dialysis and their families to help patients receiving dialysis make more educated treatment decisions. The tool provides estimates for a patient's 3-year risk of survival and death with different treatment options (dialysis versus living and deceased donor kidney transplantation). The 3-year predicted survival risks are based on patients who are similar with respect to age and comorbidities as the patient whose information is entered into the website. This tool should not be used to identify patients who may not be good transplant candidates. This tool should only be used with patients who are reasonable candidates for a kidney transplant. This tool has only been externally validated in the Ontario dialysis population and cannot be used to estimate risk in the pre-dialysis population. The purpose of the tool is to promote discussion between the patient and provider about treatment options.

It is possible that patients could become concerned when they see their predicted 3-year mortality risk. Therefore, the healthcare provider should ensure they have adequate time to discuss the estimates provided and address patient concerns. It is also important to emphasize to the patient that these are estimates only. Further, it should be communicated with the patient that estimates provided will not affect the clinician's treatment decisions, including their decision to refer for transplant. If a patient is using this tool on their own time, it is important they reach out to their healthcare provider to discuss any concerns or follow-up questions they might have.