

Explaining Renal Failure

Mr. Zelnic has been admitted to the renal ward for renal function tests. He has been passing blood in his urine for the past two weeks and has lower back pain. Read the conversation between Everson, the Ward Nurse and Mr. Zelnic. Mark then the statements afterwards whether it's True or False.

Mr. Zelnic: What happens if the kidneys stop working properly?

Everson: If the kidneys stop working properly, renal or kidney, disease could be the result. Kidney disease is also called renal disease. The nephrons in the kidneys don't function properly and your kidney becomes damaged.

Mr. Zelnic: You mean the filtration tubes?

Everson: Yes. The nephrons filter out the waste products in the blood. If the nephrons don't filter properly, the waste products aren't removed. Eventually, toxic levels of waste products build up in the blood.

Mr. Zelnic: What about the urine?

Everson: At first, the output of urine drops.

Mr. Zelnic: You mean what I've had? I pass very little urine at the moment.

Everson: Yes, it's called oliguria, when there's a low output of urine. Oliguria can be a symptom of the early stage of renal failure. If the kidney disease is untreated, the nephrons stop working altogether and no urine is passed at all. That's called anuria, which means no urine.

Mr. Zelnic: Wouldn't that be serious?

Everson: Yes it is. If your kidneys stop working completely, your body can't get rid of extra water and waste products. Because your kidneys aren't filtering out waste products or excess water, your hands or feet may swell. This build up of fluid is called edema. You may also feel lethargic because your blood hasn't been cleaned and can't function properly. This stage is known as end stage renal failure. Unfortunately, there's no treatment at this stage of kidney disease. People with end stage renal failure have to go on dialysis or perhaps even have a renal transplant.

Mr. Zelnic: So how does the doctor know what's going on with my kidneys?

Everson: You may not have any symptoms during the early stages of kidney disease, but there's a blood test which you'll have to check how well the nephrons are filtering. We also do a simple urine test to check for proteinuria or protein in the urine. It's called a.....

- In kidney disease, there is a build-up of toxic waste products in the blood.
- Oliguria is a symptom of end stage renal failure.
- Fluid retention indicates that the filtration system of the kidneys has failed.
- End stage renal failure can be treated.
- The symptoms of kidney disease appear immediately.

Toxic	edema	nephrons	renal failure	renal
urine	lethargic	renal transplant		

- 1.) If the kidneys stop working properly, _____, or kidney, disease could be the result.
- 2.) If the _____ don't filter properly, the waste products aren't removed.
- 3.) Eventually, _____ levels of waste products build up in the blood.
- 4.) Oliguria can be a symptom of the early stage of _____.
- 5.) If the kidney disease is untreated, the nephrons stop working altogether and no _____ is passed at all.
- 6.) Because your kidneys are not filtering out waste products or excess water, your hands or feet may swell; this build-up fluid is called _____.
- 7.) You may also feel _____ because your blood hasn't been cleaned and can't function properly.
- 8.) People with end stage renal failure have to go on dialysis or perhaps even have a _____.

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