

## What causes Kidney Failure?

Chronic Kidney Disease is a slow process where both kidneys lose their function gradually. End Stage Kidney Failure occurs when the kidneys are no longer able to remove sufficient waste products, toxins and excess fluids from the body resulting in the accumulation of waste products and toxic substances with the resultant symptoms.

In Singapore, the number of new patients with End Stage Kidney Failure increased from 680 in 1999 to 1264 in 2009. The number of new dialysis patients increased from 618 in 1999 to 851 in 2009 (data extracted from *Trends of End Stage Renal Disease in Singapore*, A Publication of the National Registry of Diseases Office, Singapore INP-12-1). The commonest cause of kidney failure in Singapore is diabetes (accounting for more than half of the cases), followed by glomerulonephritis and hypertension. Other less common causes of kidney failure include autoimmune disease (eg systemic lupus erythematosus), polycystic kidney disease, urinary tract obstruction, vesicoureteric reflux, stone disease etc.

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