

Q&A about PRA

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HEALTH SOLUTIONS

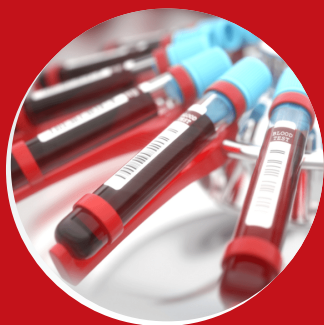
END STAGE RENAL DISEASE
NETWORKS 8 & 14

Panel Reactive Antibodies and Kidney Transplantation

There are many steps to a kidney transplant. One includes a blood test called Panel Reactive Antibodies that must be done every month. This blood test is usually drawn at your dialysis facility and sent to the transplant center.

What is a Panel Reactive Antibodies (PRA) test?

If something foreign enters your body, your immune system notices the foreign intruder and starts an antibody attack against it. The PRA helps the transplant center know if you already have antibodies. The PRA shows how likely you are to match with a kidney donor.

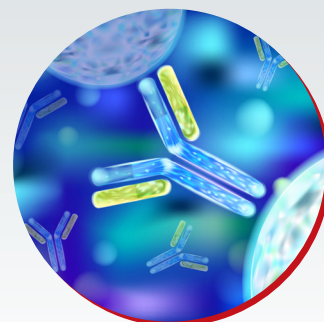


Why is a PRA test important?

Antibodies can change due to pregnancy, prior transplants, infections, and blood transfusions. Because antibody levels change, you must have a PRA test every month once you are on the transplant wait list.

How can you help with the PRA test?

- Make sure your dialysis staff draws your blood every month for your PRA test.
- Once your blood has been drawn, talk to your facility staff to make sure your blood was sent to the transplant center.
- If you are not at treatment when monthly labs are drawn, ask your dialysis staff to draw and send your blood at your next treatment.



The PRA test is very important. If your transplant center does not get your blood sample every month you may not be contacted for a kidney transplant. Ask your dialysis staff if you have questions about this step of the transplant process!