

Division of Pediatric Nephrology

Saint Louis University School of Medicine
at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon
Children's Hospital, St. Louis, MO



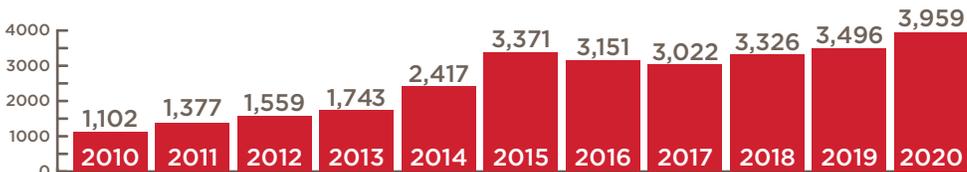
The Division of Pediatric Nephrology provides comprehensive care for infants, children and adolescents diagnosed with common, chronic, and complex kidney or urologic disorders. The team is focused on a wide range of continuous quality improvement efforts and is an active participant in multiple clinical research efforts to improve the care and outcomes of young patients.

Dialysis Services

Pediatric dialysis specialists at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon are nationally recognized and have a long-standing history of caring for patients needing dialysis from infancy through adulthood. It was the first hospital in the St. Louis region (1984) to offer dialysis as a bridge to transplant for infants diagnosed with chronic kidney disease.

Procedures offered include acute and chronic hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT). Overall volume for outpatient hemodialysis has tripled over the past decade. In 2019, inpatient and outpatient plasmapheresis was added to the variety of procedures performed in the dialysis unit. The dialysis program also offers a CMS-certified peritoneal dialysis training program.

Outpatient Hemodialysis and Peritoneal Dialysis Treatments



The hospital now is in the midst of adding more advanced technology in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to enhance infant hemofiltration. Clinical research at the hospital which evaluated the impact of repeated packed red blood cell (PRC) primes in infants requiring hemodialysis appears to not impede the success rate of later transplantation. That data analysis was presented at the 2020 Annual Dialysis Conference.

The hospital is an active participant in the Standardized Care to Improve Outcomes in Pediatric End Stage Renal Disease (SCOPE), which has resulted in participating centers having a reduced incidence of catheter-related blood stream infections and fewer hospitalizations among hemodialysis patients.

Chronic Kidney Diseases

SLUCare nephrologists at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital treat a variety of complex and chronic kidney diseases, including congenital and hereditary renal disorders, glomerular and tubular disorders and other renal diseases caused by systemic lupus erythematosus, diabetes, or vasculitis.

The division is an active participant in a large NIH-funded multicenter study, CureGN, to identify genetic and urine biomarkers for glomerular diseases such as focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS). The hospital recently started Phase 2 of the study. Along with this effort, clinical researchers here are using whole exome sequencing analysis of infants and young children to identify genes involved in the development of congenital anomalies of kidney and urinary tract (CAKUT).

Division members also participated in studies evaluating the outcomes of children with glomerulonephritis with crescents. This multi-center study evaluated the threshold for the percentage of crescents on kidney biopsy associated with risk for end-stage kidney disease.



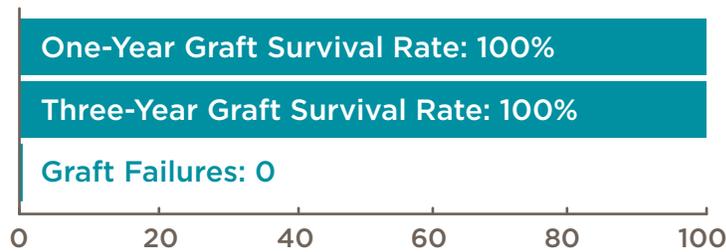
Renal Transplant

The CMS-certified renal transplantation program at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon has consistently exceeded national benchmarks for patient and graft survival for more than a decade. One-year and three-year post-transplant survival is 100%, with zero graft failures. The program, which began in 1983, offers deceased donor, living related, and living unrelated transplants. The Division also participates in the Donor Exchange Program for living donors.

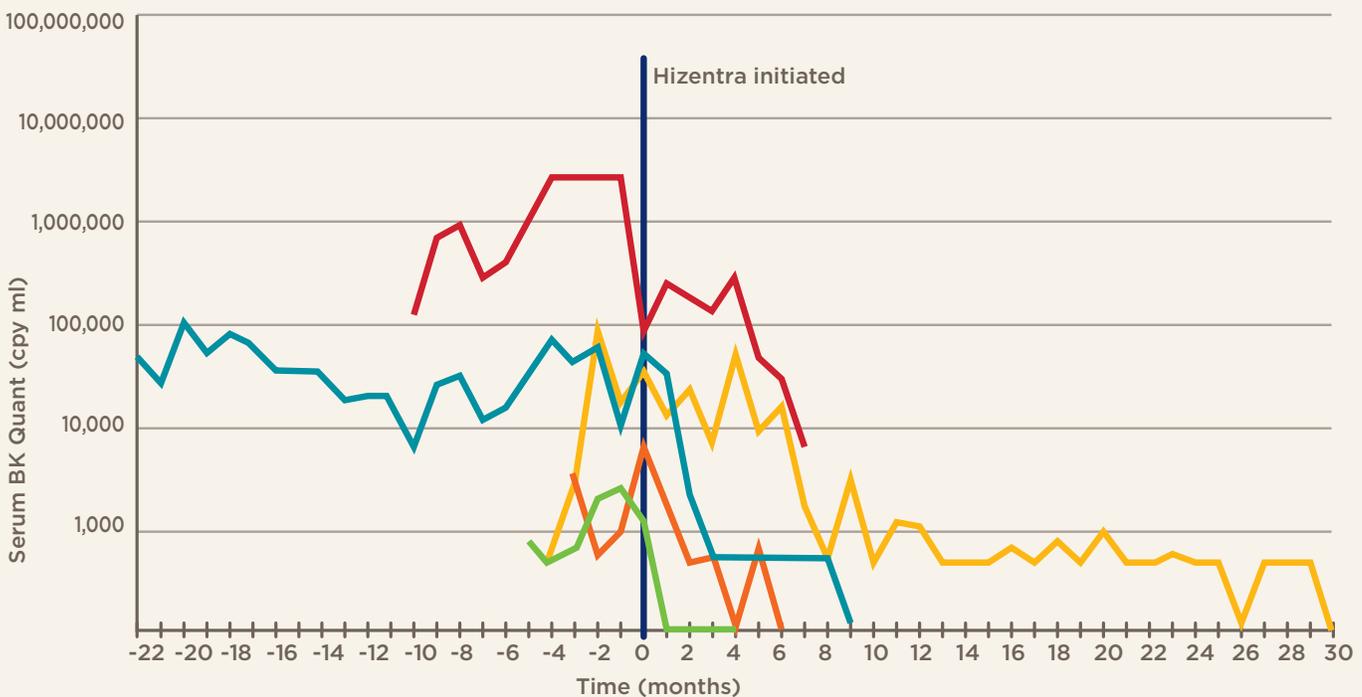
The pediatric transplant team is nationally recognized for efforts to improve quality of care and patient

outcomes. With BK viremia a significant risk for viral-associated nephropathy in transplant patients, clinical researchers here found that early identification of BK infection along with weekly, subcutaneous injections of the immunoglobulin drug Hizentra in pediatric patients resulted in a significant decline in viral load and preservation of renal function (see below). The research abstract was presented at the 2019 American Transplant Congress.

Renal Transplant Outcomes 2014-2018



*Data from Scientific Registries of Transplant Recipients (SRTR)



Quantitative serum BK virus titers by patient by month before and after initiation of Hizentra.

Comprehensive Hypertension Program

The division has a specialized program for pediatric hypertension, with weekly clinics for patients with primary hypertension as well as a robust ambulatory blood pressure monitoring program that enrolls more than 280 active participants each year. Bimonthly hypertension outreach clinics also are held in several locations in the region.

In a collaborative effort to reduce the complications of hypertension in pediatric kidney transplant recipients, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon was one of 17 centers in the IROC research network to evaluate and implement standardized blood pressure measurement protocols and clinical staff educational programs to improve regular BP tracking. The program resulted in appropriate BP measurement rising from 11% of visits to more than 78% of visits over a 20-week period. The final results of the IROC study were published initially in abstracts and then in the July 2020 edition of PEDIATRICS.

Patient Safety Initiatives

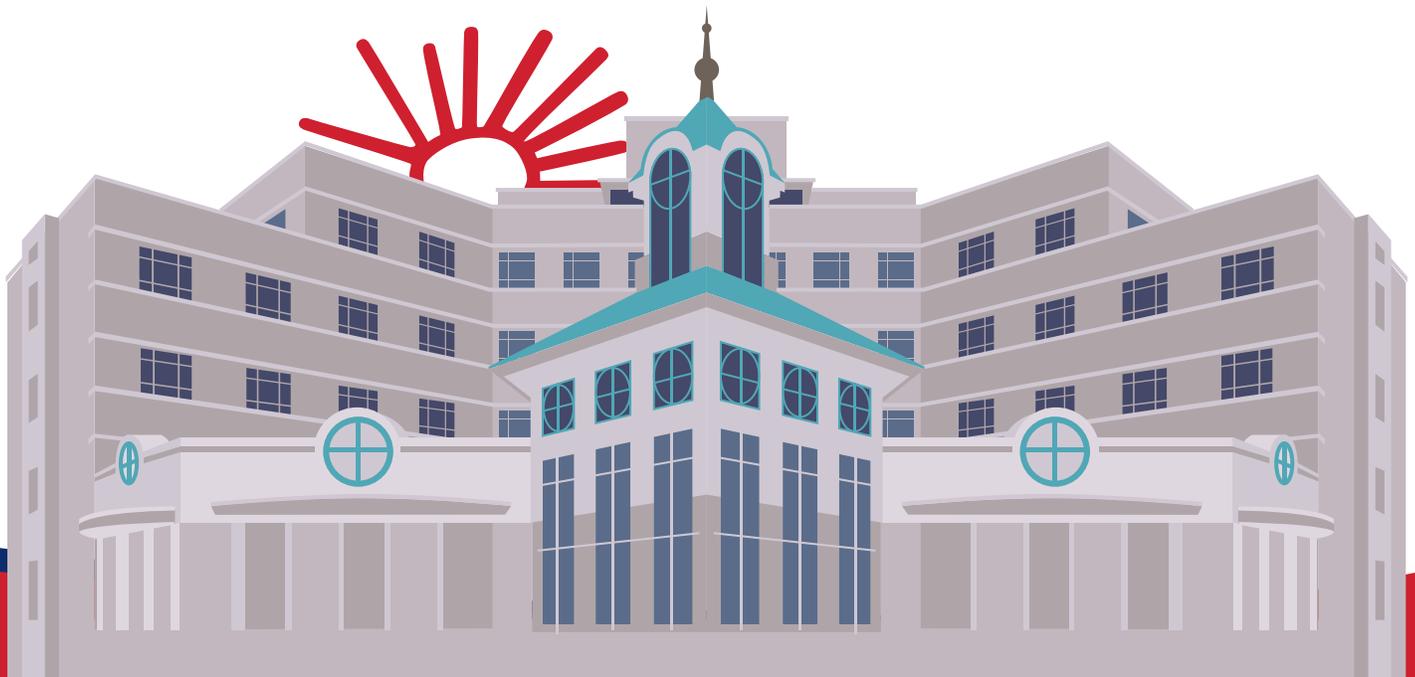
The Division of Pediatric Nephrology and SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital are working together to prevent kidney injuries. Acute kidney injury as a result of exposure to nephrotoxic medications

is a preventable injury. Through participation in the Solutions for Patient Safety (SPS) initiative to identify patients at highest risk for nephrotoxic medication-associated acute kidney injury (NAKI) as a hospital acquired condition, the Division of Pediatric Nephrology and SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital are collaborating to increase patient safety and prevent these types of injuries.

Nephrology Clinical Research

The hospital is a member in Good Standing of the North American Pediatric Renal Trials and Collaborative Studies Network (NAPRTCS), with active participation and higher than average enrollments in multiple clinical trials evaluating enhanced treatment options for renal transplant, chronic kidney disease, and dialysis. SSM Health Cardinal Glennon also is an active participant in the Pediatric Nephrology Research Consortium (PNRC) and is one of only 31 centers involved in the national Improving Renal Outcomes Collaborative (IROC).

For physician consultations, contact the SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Access Center at **1-888-229-2424**.



SLUCare Division of **Pediatric Nephrology Faculty**



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Pediatric nephrologists at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital are faculty of Saint Louis University School of Medicine and members of its SLUCare Physician Group. The hospital is the only free-standing, not-for-profit Catholic pediatric hospital in the United States and is a member of SSM Health, one of the largest Catholic health care systems in the country. For more information about the hospital, visit cardinalglennon.com.



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