

## Video 5 Starting and Stopping Dialysis

### Key Notes

The decision to start dialysis is influenced by other health conditions and overall health. Discuss your health and options with your doctor.

#### **Can dialysis be stopped at some point?**

Typically, chronic kidney disease is not reversible, and patients continue to benefit from remaining on dialysis to remove wastes and fluid and feel well.

A person can get off dialysis after a kidney transplant. Sometimes, people can stop dialysis if the kidney failure was considered acute or temporary. This may happen after surgery, or after a major illness where the kidney function declined suddenly. Otherwise, all other patients stay on dialysis unless they get a transplant.

Some may wonder how long they can live after starting dialysis, which depends on the age at which treatment is started, other medical conditions, and overall health.

Some people live many years on dialysis, while others use it as a bridge while waiting for a transplant.