



AMERICAN NEPHROLOGY NURSES' ASSOCIATION

ANNA'S 42ND NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
MARCH 27-30, 2011
HYNES CONVENTION CENTER, BOSTON, MA

The Experiences of Black American Living Kidney Donors

Sheila Adams-Leander, PhD (c), RN, Assistant Professor and Coordinator Accelerated BSN Program, Saint Louis University School of Nursing, St. Louis, MO; Recipient ANNA Dissertation Research Award, 2009

End stage renal disease (ESRD) is a chronic illness of significant concern in the United States and throughout the world. In many cases, the optimal treatment for ESRD is living kidney donation. Black Americans are of particular interest in terms of living kidney donation because they have a high incidence of ESRD, they have experienced discrimination regarding kidney transplantation, and they are under-represented in research related to living kidney donation. Given the unique experience of the Black American living kidney donor and the limited research in this area, the aim of this interpretive phenomenological study was to gain a better understanding of Black American living kidney donation when the recipient is a genetically- or emotionally-related person. Eight Black American living kidney donors, ranging in age from 30 to 70 years, from two transplant centers in the Midwest were interviewed two to three times, using a semi-structured interview guide. Data analysis was iterative, verified with participants on subsequent interviews, and reviewed by an interpretive research group. Preliminary findings include themes of uncertainty, vulnerability, trust and loss of trust, caring, and use of spirituality or religious practices for coping. In addition, it was found that participants have three distinct patterns of experiences; the threatened world, the work of living kidney donation, and restoration of the world.

Findings from this investigation will broaden the evidence or knowledge base from which to launch further investigations of Black American living donors. The findings have the potential to influence the way Black American living kidney donors are cared for before and after donation.

Abstract selected for presentation at ANNA's 42nd National Symposium, Boston, MA, 2011