



# Having Your KIDNEY Donor Find YOU!

## Plasmapheresis

For kidney transplant recipients, plasmapheresis is a process that filters the blood and removes harmful antibodies so they can't attack and damage the donated kidney. Having high level of these antibodies is referred to as being "sensitized."

These antibodies can develop in your blood if you've had a previous transplant, a blood transfusion or for some women, after being pregnant.

Antibodies help protect us from foreign objects. Typically, your antibodies protect you from viruses and bacteria. However, in the case of an organ transplant, your antibodies may mistake your new organ as an invading object and try to defend your body from this intruder.

Plasmapheresis is similar to dialysis; however, it removes a portion of your blood where the antibodies are located.

You will need to check with your transplant center about their policy of using plasmapheresis.