

Mr. P. West – Patient speaker, QA Hospital, Portsmouth, United Kingdom

I was diagnosed with IGA Nethropathy and hyper-tension in January 1996 with little or no warning. I was paced onto haemodialysis in my local unit straight away. I received my first transplant 9 months later in September 1996. This lasted until June 2008 when my tx finally succumbed to the IGA. I was placed back onto haemodialysis again, this time at a satellite unit very close to my home. There I stayed, having dialysis three times a week. Urging this time I was asked about going onto the home haemodialysis system but I felt that needling myself wasn't for me. I received my second tx in May 2011. My surgeon, the fantastic Mr Gibbs, informed me almost immediately that it wasn't a great match but that it would give me some respite form dialysis and, more importantly, it may give my wife and I the opportunity to have a family as all previous attempts had failed (we had a beautiful little girl in September 2012!). This tx failed in September 2015 but this time I was sure that the home dialysis system was for me. As my natural veins were long past usable the aforementioned Mr Gibbs formed another graft in my right arm (I'd already had one on my second round of dialysis). Although the thought of needling myself was terrifying the training I received from the amazing Laura Hignell very soon calmed me and I now would not let anyone needle me unless I was totally unable to. I buttonhole myself every other day and although not widely recognised, or accepted, as a form of needling it has worked for me almost faultlessly for three and a half years and I would refuse to "rope ladder" my very precious graft.