

Southwest Kidney Institute offers cutting edge Treatment



Reported by: [Jodie Heisner](#)
Email: jlheisner@abc15.com
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(Getty Images)

TEMPE, AZ -- Kidney disease is reaching epidemic levels, according to experts, with more than 10 percent of the U.S. population having some form of the disease.

Here in the Valley patients have the upper hand thanks to an institute offering cutting edge treatments and research.

Joseph Kulchecki has been battling the disease for over a year. He says his first symptoms were feeling tired and sluggish.

He's on dialysis and happy to be involved in an investigational study at [Southwest Kidney Institute](#). "It's apt to help somebody else," Kulchecki said.

The study will determine which of two drugs is the most effective treatment for kidney disease. It's one of at least a dozen studies going on at the institute.

Dr. Bhupinder Singh is the director of clinical research.

"I screen these studies very carefully," said Singh.

He says patients can receive new drugs that won't even be offered to the general public for another three or four years.

"A lot of times we'll say well this is what I can do. This is it, this is the three medications I can do, your kidney function is still declining, but hey you know there is this product being developed," Singh said. "It's not FDA approved, but we can offer this option to you."

Patients go through an extensive counseling session before they can participate.

Singh says there is no pressure. Patients can withdraw at anytime.

Southwest Kidney Institute has locations throughout the Valley and doctors at most Valley hospitals. The research center is located in Tempe.