

THE KIDNEY

19. *Dialysis*

A GUIDE FOR PATIENTS

Dialysis replaces some of the functions of the kidneys, particularly the removal of waste products and excess fluids.

Dialysis

What is dialysis?

Another name for dialysis is **renal replacement therapy**. When **chronic renal failure** progresses to the point where the kidneys do not function well enough to keep a person healthy (see also section 17), replacement of kidney function with dialysis (**renal replacement therapy**) or a **kidney transplant** is necessary to maintain good health. Dialysis replaces some of the functions of the kidneys, particularly the removal of waste products and excess fluids.