

Kidney patients given chance of full recovery

United Press International
 WASHINGTON — Kidney transplants now offer hope of full recovery for increasing numbers of Americans with kidney failure, thanks to improving techniques to overcome rejection problems, a Boston specialist says.

Although transplantation to cure renal disease has had only limited use so far, Dr. Andrew S. Levey, who treats kidney disease at the New England Medical Center, predicts that recent advances in the safety and effectiveness of the procedure will make it more common in the future.

Unlike people with heart and liver failure, patients with kidneys that don't work can be kept alive by other means — with the periodic use of dialysis machines to remove toxic wastes from their blood.

But Levey said in a report in the Archives of Internal Medicine journal that kidney transplantation from related living donors provides "superior long-term results and remains the ideal therapy for chronic renal failure."

The problem, however, is that only 2 percent of kidney patients have such donors.

The alternative is kidneys from dead people. Levey said this form of transplantation has been seriously limited both by the shortage of do-

nors and by more severe rejection problems.

But Levey said new techniques to deal with the rejection process have been developed in the last few years, significantly improving the prognosis for patients receiving kidneys from cadavers.

Leveysaid patients now receiving a kidney transplant from a living related donor have a 95 percent chance of survival for the first year — when the risk of failure is highest — and their new kidney has a 85 percent chance of surviving.

If the kidney fails, the patient can be returned to dialysis.

Patients receiving kidneys from cadavers have a 90 percent chance of survival for the first year, but the kidney survival rate is lower — 65 percent. Until recently, however, Levey said survival of the kidney from a cadaver was only 50 percent.

Rejection remains the cause of two-thirds of the cadaver kidney transplant failures.

Levey said that with new techniques to reduce the rejection rate, first-year cadaver kidney transplant survival rates of 75 percent to 85 percent have been achieved by some medical centers.

The factory of the future will be smaller if it exists at all

United Press International
 NEW YORK — The American factory of the future will be a lot smaller than present-day plants since, a new study predicts, there will be few people or products cluttering the space.

"You don't need size," said James Solberg, professor of industrial engineering at Purdue University. "The machinery will become more computerized. You won't have large inventories, and you won't have as many workers."

Solberg is one of four experts who have just finished a study on what American factories will be like at the end of this century — if they are to exist at all.

"The real issue is economic competition," said Solberg. "What do we have to do to preserve manufacturing in the United States?"

The report concentrates on metalworking factories, which Solberg

calls "the biggest chunk of the pie." Computers will do much of the planning now performed by engineers, Solberg said. "The big threat is to white collar workers, not blue collar. The enormous white collar population will be reduced drastically."

All these jobs will be lost not because employers need to eliminate labor costs, but because human beings cannot prepare a manufacturing plan fast enough to be efficient, Solberg said.

The report predicts that in the factory of the future, a single order "will be processed in a matter of hours, as opposed to the weeks that are accepted as normal today," he said.

Routine orders may be made by computer, and accepted by a computer on the factory end "without any human attention," it says.

Both the manufacturers and their customers will want to keep inven-

tory low, so orders will be small, the report said. But the computers will respond so quickly to questions about manufacturing plans that factories will not require volume to keep costs low.

The manufacture of sophisticated products like jet engine turbine blades will still require human design, the report said. But the work will be done by a handful of people clustered in two or three groups throughout the nation, who will serve many production facilities.

While the computers handle the office work, robots will be working on the factory floor, Solberg said. But they will be far more sophisticated than today's versions, which are suitable mainly for repetitive assembly tasks. The robots of the year 2000 will have sensory capacity and the capacity to process information and respond to unforeseen developments.

Town seeks 'caravan of women'

United Press International
 PLAN, Spain — Bachelors in the isolated farming valley of Gistai in the Spanish Pyrenees say there's only one way to make life bearable again — bring in a caravan of marriageable women.

The aptly named village of Plañ, where there are 142 bachelors out of 700 people, is trying to organize a grand-scale singles encounter to

help solve its problem of having few women, fewer marriages and a steady loss of population.

Daily hardships and lack of opportunity in the valley in northeast Spain have sent most younger women to the cities to look for work while many younger men stay behind on the family farms.

The bachelors' idea is to bring in a large group of single females for a

tour and a big dance, where they could mingle with the lonely men.

They say the plan came to them after seeing a 1951 American film about a similar scheme during the California gold rush.

Josefina Loste, mayor of the nearby town of San Juan de Plan, said she thought the bachelors had a wonderful idea.

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Pat Gilbert has been named assistant vice president of the Wakefield Corp., Chairman of the Board Troy P. Wakefield announced today.

Mrs. Gilbert joined the company in 1982 as head of accounting. She is a 1974 BBA graduate of Texas A&M University. Her previous experience included the Moshbacher Co. of Houston where she was part of the joint interest accounting department; Conoco in Ponca City, OK in revenue accounting; Conoco, Houston in the crude oil trading department. She worked in accounts payable with Western Refining Co. of Salt Lake City, UT and was a tax accountant with Glen Brewer, CPA in Bryan.

She is a graduate of Crown Point, NM High School. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Dew, now live in Bryan. Her husband, Clay, is associated with Smith Tool Co., a division of Smith International.

The Wakefield Corporation provides management for the Troy P. and Jean B. Wakefield Investments; Dreamers Oil, Inc.; JWB Land & Minerals, Inc.; and the Parlen Wakefield Trust. These companies manage mineral and royalty interests and working interests in oil and gas ventures, refining and real estate in 10 states.

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