

Chapter 15 Lesson 4: The Excretory System

Introduction:

Your kidneys are the part of your excretory system that filters waste products out of your bloodstream. Kidney disorders can be very serious and can even lead to death if not treated promptly. Visit the Web site below to learn more about the functions of the kidneys and the symptoms and treatment of kidney disease.

Links to Explore:

Kidney Disease Information

http://www.nkdep.nih.gov/patients/kidney_disease_information.htm#1

Directions:

- Click on the link and read the Web page.
 - Answer the following questions:
1. What is the source of the wastes in your blood?
 2. Name the three common causes of kidney disease.
 3. What are the symptoms of early kidney disease?
 4. Name two tests your doctor can perform to check for kidney disease.
 5. If your kidneys stop working completely, what are your options to maintain your health?

Answers:

1. These wastes come from the normal breakdown of active tissues and from food you eat.
2. Diabetes, high blood pressure, and heredity
3. None. Early kidney disease is a silent problem.
4. Two of the following:
 - Measuring the level of serum creatinine in your blood
 - Measuring the level of protein in your urine
 - Checking your blood pressure
5. Dialysis and kidney transplantation

Additional Links to Explore:

Use the links below to gather additional information on the activity topic. When appropriate, have students extend their research to include important concepts contained in these Web sites.

National Kidney and Urologic Diseases Information Clearinghouse

<http://kidney.niddk.nih.gov/>

Medline Plus: Kidneys and Urinary System Topics

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/kidneysandurinarysystem.html>

Please read our [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Notice](#) before you explore our Web site. To report a technical problem with this Web site, please contact [Technical Support](#) .