

# Acute Kidney Injury



## Definition

Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) is a sudden episode of kidney failure that happens within a few hours or days.

AKI causes a build-up of waste products in the blood and makes it hard for the kidneys to keep the right balance of fluids in the body.

## Immediate Treatment

**Fluid Management:** Ensuring the right balance of fluids to avoid dehydration or overload.

**Medications:** To control blood pressure, manage electrolytes, and treat underlying causes.

**Dialysis:** In severe cases, temporary dialysis may be required to remove toxins and waste products from the blood.

## Difference from Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

- AKI occurs suddenly and is often reversible with timely treatment.
- CKD is a gradual loss of kidney function over time, often irreversible.

## Causes

**Decreased Blood Flow to the Kidneys:** Severe dehydration, blood loss from major surgery or injury, heart failure.

**Direct Damage to the Kidneys:** Infections, toxins, certain medications.

This pamphlet is for informational purposes only and should not replace professional medical advice. Please consult your healthcare provider for personalized care.