

# POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE:

## WHAT EVERY FAMILY NEEDS TO KNOW



**PKD FOUNDATION  
OF CANADA**

*For Research in  
Polycystic Kidney Disease*

[www.endpkd.ca](http://www.endpkd.ca)

# PKD

## POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE

PKD is one of the most common, life-threatening genetic diseases, affecting more people than Down syndrome, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy and sickle cell anemia – combined.

There is no cure for PKD. Until one is found, PKD will threaten the lives of every generation of every family living with the disease.

PKD equally affects men, women and children – regardless of age, race, geography or ethnic origin. It does not skip a generation.

**The often-devastating disease comes in two hereditary forms:**

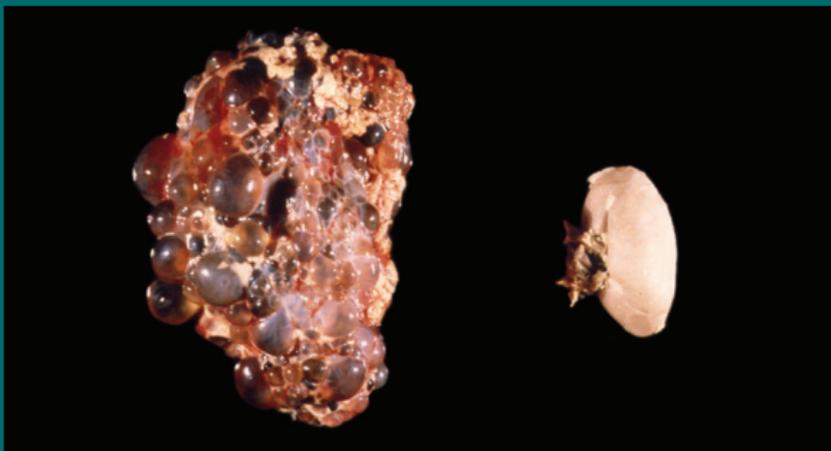
**Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (ADPKD):** ADPKD affects approximately **1 in 500** worldwide. Parents with the dominant form of PKD have a **50%** chance of passing the disease on to each of their children.

**Autosomal Recessive Polycystic Kidney Disease (ARPKD):** ARPKD is a relatively rare form of PKD that affects approximately **1 in 20,000** babies and often leads to death in the first month of life. Parents who carry the ARPKD gene have a 25% chance of passing the disease on to each of their children but have no evidence of kidney disease themselves.



More than **66,000** Canadians and **12.5 million** newborns, children and adults worldwide battle polycystic kidney disease (PKD) each and every day.





## DEVASTATING EFFECTS

Those who inherit PKD develop fluid-filled cysts in both kidneys. Over time, these cysts grow and multiply, causing the kidney to increase sometimes dramatically in size. Although a normal kidney is roughly the size of a human fist, PKD kidneys can grow to be the size of a football or larger and weigh as much as 38 pounds each.

## COMMON PKD SYMPTOMS:

- **high blood pressure**
- **constant or intermittent pain in the back and side of the stomach**
- **blood in the urine**
- **kidney stones**
- **frequent urinary tract infections**
- **a family history of kidney problems**
- **heart problems**
- **stroke**

Approximately 50% of people with PKD will develop kidney failure and be forced to depend on dialysis or a transplant to live.

## FORTUNATELY THERE IS HOPE

Since its establishment in 1994, the PKD Foundation of Canada has worked tirelessly to find a treatment and a cure for PKD. With the help of PKD Foundation of Canada Chapters in cities across the country and beyond, the PKD Foundation of Canada also provides a forum for patients who want to join in the fight to raise awareness and funds for PKD research and patient education. PKD volunteers team up for the annual Walk to END PKD, held each year in September.

To learn more about PKD, call **(877) 410-1741** or visit **[www.endpkd.ca](http://www.endpkd.ca)**.

### **PKD Foundation of Canada**

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