

# Definition: Nephropathy

Nephropathy is the medical term for damage to the kidneys.

It is a possible complication of diabetes, and can also be called diabetic kidney disease.

In our bodies the kidneys filter out waste from the blood.

Over time, uncontrolled diabetes can cause loss of kidney function and lead to kidney failure.

Early treatment and regular monitoring with your healthcare provider are important.

Early stage nephropathy might not have signs, however as the kidney function lessens people may experience symptoms such as... swelling of hands, feet, and face; nausea; weakness; lack of appetite; foamy urine; shortness of breath; itchiness and dry skin.

Want to know more about nephropathy and possible treatments?

Talk with your care team. They are here to help.