

THE CAUSE AND SPREAD OF CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

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THE CAUSE AND SPREAD OF CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE: NON-TRADITIONAL CAUSES IN NICARAGUAN SUGARCANE WORKERS



Over the past two decades more than 20,000 sugarcane workers in Nicaragua have either been diagnosed or died from Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). The majority of these people are young men between the ages of 20 and 35 years. The problem is that the causes of CKD in the workers are unknown and treatment is not an option because of the price. The topic has been researched before and recently has gained a lot of publicity but nothing for the workers has been done yet. Our goal is to publish a paper that explains a combination of possible causes and discusses the ethical issues. In addition to the causes and the ethical dilemmas the paper will also explain the history behind the sugarcane companies, the medical aspects of the particular disease, and the environmental effects.

To learn more about this topic, three members of the research team spent two weeks in Nicaragua meeting with former workers who are now protesting the sugarcane companies. Meeting the workers put a face to the research and made the topic that much more valuable. There is now a reason for the research and it is to help the workers that we met. The hope is that with this published paper, other research teams will become interested in this topic so that one day this injustice in Nicaragua will end.

