

HEART-KIDNEYS-TESTICLES

Hitt <i>kir</i> ‘heart’, HierLuw <i>zar-za</i> ‘heart’	Hitt <i>hah(a)ri-</i> ‘lungs, kidneys?’ (some paired internal organ)
Skr̥t <i>h̥d-</i> , <i>h̥daya-</i> , Avest <i>zərəd-</i> ‘heart’	
Gk <i>κῆρ</i> ‘heart’	
Lat <i>cor</i> ‘heart’, <i>καρδίᾱ</i> ‘heart, stomach’	Lat <i>rēnēs</i> (Pl.) ‘kidneys’
Goth <i>hairtō</i> ‘heart’, OHG <i>herza</i> ‘heart’, OEng <i>heorte</i> ‘heart’, ONorse <i>hjarta</i> ‘heart’	
Slav <i>*srūdīce</i> ‘heart’	
Toch A <i>kri</i> ‘will’, <i>kāryāñ</i> (Pl.) ‘hearts’	Toch <i>*ār-āñc</i> : A <i>āriñc</i> B <i>arañce</i> ‘heart’
Lith <i>šerdīs</i> ‘marrow, heart’, <i>širdīs</i> ‘heart’, Latv <i>širds</i> ‘heart’, OPruss <i>seyr</i> ‘heart’	
OIr <i>crīde</i> ‘heart’, Welsh <i>craidd</i> ‘middle’	Celt <i>*ār-en</i> : OIr <i>āru</i> ‘kidney, gland’, Welsh <i>aren</i> ‘kidney, testicle’

Forms come from (Mallory & Adams 1997, 262-263, 329), where the kidney word is described as “the oldest reconstructable term for ‘kidney’ in PIE.” There is enough evidence to reconstruct the joint meaning as ‘paired internal organ’ but the presence of the heart words is puzzling. If proved reliable, this reconstruction will lead to a conclusion that ancient Indo-Europeans conceived of the heart as a paired organ. The root is unmistakably **kHeCHr-* enlarged with different affixes whose history remains to be described. There is no suffixal agreement between the nests. The odd appearance of a voiced velar in Indo-Aryan *h̥d-*, *h̥daya-*, and *zərəd* has always lacked an explanation. As seen against Hitt *hah(a)ri*, it seems plausible that the “laryngeal” in the second syllable was voiced, hence PIE **kHegHr-* simplified to **gHr-* > **ghr-* in Indo-Aryan. In Lat *rēnēs* (< **gHrñēs*), the same simplification took out both ‘laryngeals’. A risky, but interesting continuation of the present reconstruction takes Gk *νεφρός* ‘kidneys’, Lat (Praenestine) *nefrōnēs* ‘testicles’, OHG *nioro*, ONorse *nyyra*, MEng *nēre* ‘kidney’ (traditionally from **(H₁)neg^whrós*) as part of the same group. Distributionally, they fill in the Greco-Germanic gap in the kidney forms. The semantic pairing of kidneys and testicles in Latin follows the same pattern as in Celtic. Initial *n-* can be explained as either a prefix or a result of wrong segmentation. Eventually one can arrive at **n-eg^whrós* < **eg^wHr-*, but with little overall confidence.