



End Stage Renal Disease & Renal Replacement Therapy



Definition

• End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) is a medical condition in which a person's kidneys cease functioning on a permanent basis leading to the need for a regular course of long-term dialysis or a kidney transplant to maintain life.

• Renal replacement therapy replaces nonendocrine kidney function in patients with renal failure. Techniques include intermittent hemodialysis, continuous hemofiltration and hemodialysis, and peritoneal dialysis.

Causes

- When the kidneys are no longer able to work at a level needed for day-to-day life.
- Most common causes are diabetes and high blood pressure.
- Comes after chronic kidney disease.
- The kidneys may slowly stop working during a period of 10 to 20 years before end-stage disease results.

Symptoms

- General ill feeling & Headache and fatigue
- Itching
- Weight loss without trying
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea

Indications of Dialysis

- Acute kidney injury
- Uremic encephalopathy
- Pericarditis
- Life-threatening hyperkalemia
- Refractory acidosis
- Hypervolemia causing end-organ complications (e.g., pulmonary edema)
- Failure to thrive and malnutrition
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Intractable gastrointestinal symptoms
- Asymptomatic patients with a GFR of 5 to 9 mL/min/1.73 m²
- Any toxic ingestion
- The guidelines suggest that if patient is not having these problems, wait to have dialysis until eGFR is 6 mL/min.

Kidney Transplant

- A kidney transplant is surgery to place a healthy kidney into a person with kidney failure.
- Make sure patient is a good candidate for kidney transplant.

Special Diet

- Eating foods low in protein
- Getting enough calories if you are losing weight
- Limiting fluids
- Limiting salt, potassium, phosphorus, and other electrolytes

Types of Dialysis

- Hemodialysis: blood passes through a tube into an artificial kidney or filter.
- Peritoneal dialysis: a special solution passes into patient's belly through a catheter tube, the solution remains in patient's abdomen for period of time and then is removed.



Hemodialysis

Advantages:

1. Dialysis-free 4 days a week.
2. Possible to be done at home
3. Normal routine and travel with the machine
4. Have to arrange access to dialysis facilities when traveling to another country

Disadvantages:

1. Diet and fluid restriction

Treatment

Low blood pressure:

1. Managing fluid gains
2. Don't eat during dialysis
3. Diabetes requires eating while dialyzing

Hypervolemia:

1. Reschedule any missed treatment
2. Limit sodium intake
3. Fluid guidelines
4. Record weight
5. Manage thirst
6. Manage diabetes

Itchy skin:

1. Avoid using skin care products that contain alcohol
2. Limit shower time to 10 minutes and use warm water
3. Be sure to take phosphate binders
4. Stay for entire treatment time
5. Reschedule any missed treatment

Complications & Management

Infection:

1. Keep access site clean and dry
2. Check for any signs of an infection
3. Hand hygiene and protecting access site



Peritoneal dialysis

Advantages:

1. Carried out at home.
2. Fewer restrictions on diet and fluid intake.

Disadvantages:

1. Carried out every day
2. Upsetting feeling
3. Developing peritonitis
4. Peritoneum thickening and scarring
5. Lack of energy and in some cases malnutrition
6. Weight gain

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Reference • PennMedicine