

RENAL REPLACEMENT THERAPY PREFERENCES OF CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE PATIENTS RECEIVING NEPHROLOGICAL CARE

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INTRODUCTION

Although we put much energy into pre-dialysis patient education, the proportion of chronic kidney disease patients avoiding dialysis therapy in a non-planned manner fails to decrease.

OBJECTIVE

To survey the preferences of patients receiving care at the nephrology outpatient clinic regarding dialysis therapy.

METHOD

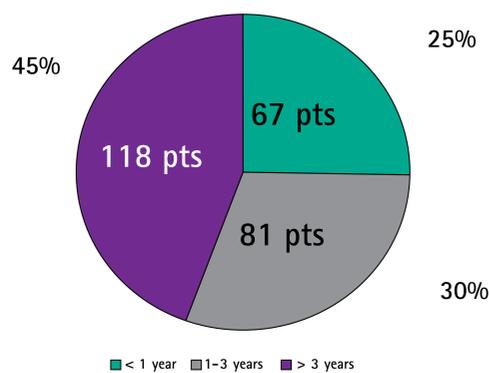
We conducted a questionnaire survey among patients attending our centre during the study period (in a randomly selected 3-week period).

PATIENTS
A total of 344 kidney disease patients receiving regular nephrology care were asked to complete a questionnaire compiled by us. A complete response suitable for interpretation was received from 266 patients.

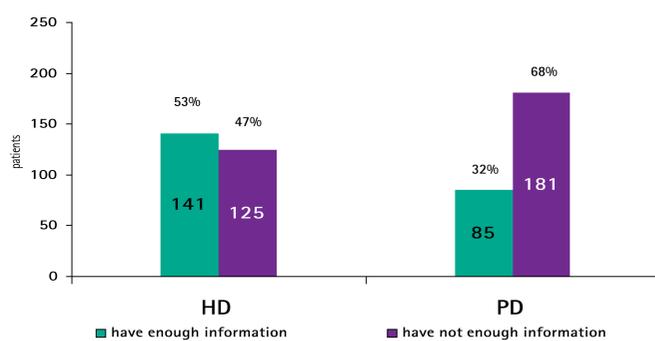
Average age: 72.2±13.2 years
Average GFR: 32.8±8.1 mL/min/1.73m²

187 patients (Female) 79 patients (Male)

8. Distribution of responders according to the time spent in nephrology care



9. Distribution of responders according to their knowledge about HD and PD modalities



10. Patients absolutely rejecting dialysis

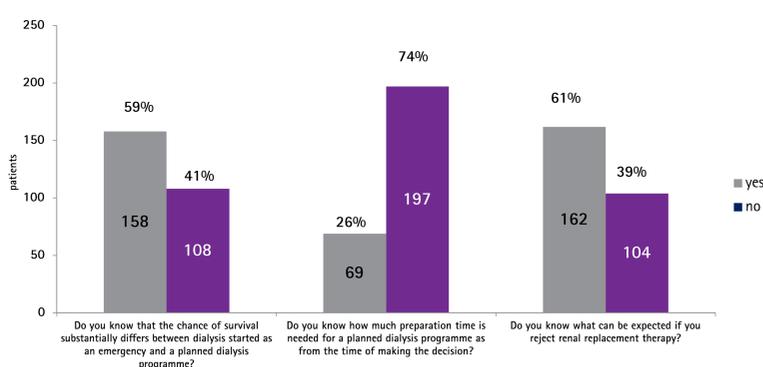
n=120 (45%)
average age: 76.3±12.5 years

- 64 patients have a GFR >20 mL/min/1.73m², average age: 72.1±12.8 years
- 56 patients have a GFR ≤20 mL/min/1.73m², average age: 70.4±15.1 years
- 4 patients have a functional AVF (earlier they accepted it but now they already reject it)

Reasons for rejection:

- negative opinion (from hearsay, from the experience of others) 12 pts
- old age 16 pts
- would rather die 24 pts
- does not have sufficient information (or cites this as a reason) 68 pts (57% of patients rejecting the treatment!)

11. Distribution of patients on the basis of further questions n=266

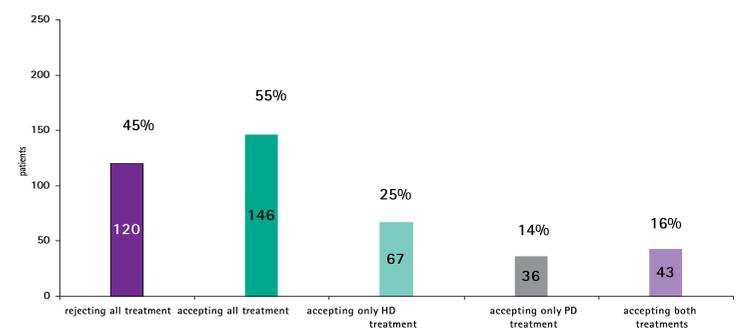


METHOD (QUESTIONNAIRE)

- Age
- Gender
- Educational level: primary, secondary, university
- Place of residence: town, village
- Start of nephrology care:
 - <1 year
 - 1-3 years
 - >3 years
- Are you receiving EPO treatment?
 - yes
 - no
- Please describe briefly what you know about haemodialysis (HD)?
- Please describe briefly what you know about peritoneal dialysis (PD)?
- Please state whether you would be willing to receive HD, PD or either of them, should it be necessary?
- If not, please give reasons for your decision:
 - you do not have sufficient information about the treatment
 - you have a negative opinion about the given treatment
 - you would rather die
 - other reasons (I am old, etc.)
- Do you know that the chance of survival substantially differs between dialysis started as an emergency and a planned dialysis programme?
- Do you know how much preparation time is needed for a planned dialysis programme as from the time of making the decision?
- Have you ever had an 'arteriovenous fistula' created? If yes, when?
- Do you know what can be expected if you reject renal replacement therapy?
- Actual GFR:

RESULTS

12. Preferences of the responders regarding the acceptance of different renal replacement therapies n=266



13. Distribution of patients participating in the questionnaire n=266

	GFR ≤20 mL/min/1,73m ²			GFR >20 mL/min/1,73m ²		
	total	men	women	total	men	women
total patients	88	28	60	178	51	127
average age (years)	72.4±14.3	65.1±15.3	75.6±12.4	71.4±14.1	67.9±15.8	72.7±13.1
average GFR (mL/min/1,73m ²)	14.7±4.9	13.1±4.9	15.4±4.7	38.4±15.8	41.3±18.8	37.3±14.4
accepting all treatment (pts)	32	12	20	114	40	74
average age (years)	71.8±11.3	65.8±12.4	75.8±16.4	68.7±17.2	67.2±5.8	72.1±13.8
average GFR (mL/min/1,73m ²)	15.9±2.0	13.8±3.2	15.9±5.4	35.4±13.6	38.7±5.2	33.9±5.6
rejecting all treatment (pts)	56	10	46	64	17	47
average age (years)	72.1±12.8	70.5±8.9	73.7±12.8	70.4±15.1	67.6±16.3	73.3±13.9
average GFR (mL/min/1,73m ²)	10.5±5.4	7.0±3.5	14.1±5.4	41.4±16.9	43.8±17.9	39.1±16.0

14. Distribution of patients accepting dialysis therapy n=146

	GFR ≤20 mL/min/1,73m ²			GFR >20 mL/min/1,73m ²		
	total	men	women	total	men	women
accepting all treatments (pts)	32	12	20	114	40	74
accepting only HD treatment (pts)	17	6	11	50	13	37
average age (years)	71.1±11.3	62.6±17.3	79.6±5.3	73.7±9.5	73.4±5.8	74.1±13.2
average GFR (mL/min/1,73m ²)	13.9±5.0	12.2±5.3	15.7±4.8	33.0±8.7	32.9±8.1	33.2±9.4
patient with fistula	16	5	11	3	1	0
accepting only PD treatment (pts)	10	3	7	26	15	11
average age (years)	66.8±15.8	62.6±15.3	70.9±16.4	69.7±17.2	66.8±21.3	72.7±13.2
average GFR (mL/min/1,73m ²)	15.9±2.0	15.0±3.2	16.9±0.8	40.2±23.0	48.5±27.4	31.9±7.0
patient with fistula	1	1	0	2	1	1
accepting both treatments	5	3	2	38	12	26
average age (years)	77.7±12.4	70.9±13.6	84.5±11.3	67.4±13.1	65.0±12.2	69.8±14.0
average GFR (mL/min/1,73m ²)	17.2±1.7	15.0±3.1	19.5±0.4	38.3±13.6	38.0±13.1	38.7±14.2
patient with fistula	3	1	1	2	0	2

SUMMARY

- Although our centre has devoted much energy to pre-dialysis patient education for 8 years, the proportion of chronic kidney disease patients starting dialysis therapy as an emergency fails to decrease.
- In a pilot study, we conducted a questionnaire survey among patients attending our nephrology outpatient clinic (during a 3-week period) to assess their knowledge about renal replacement therapies and to get to know their preferences.
- Seventy-five percent of the patients had been receiving nephrological care for more than 1 year, 45% of them for more than 3 years. Thirty-three percent had a GFR below 20 mL/min/1.73m².
- One of the surprising results of our survey was that the information supply status of patients completing the questionnaire was insufficient (mainly regarding the PD modality).
- The majority of patients having a higher GFR would accept dialysis therapy, as opposed to patients with a GFR below 20 (64% vs. 32%).
- For this reason, it would be essential to lay greater emphasis on the education and regular re-education of patients.
- During the long period of nephrology care, patients may change their opinion regarding the acceptance of dialysis therapy.
- It was surprising that, despite the regular care and the repeated education, nearly half of the patients rejected the dialysis programme.