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**Dialysis Modality Decision Making With Chronic Kidney Disease:
A Systematic Review of Qualitative Research**

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Home dialysis has economic and quality of life benefits yet usage in the United States and Canada remains low. An important means to increase the use of home-based dialysis services is to understand better why patients do and do not select it as their preferred option. This systematic review of qualitative research examined dialysis modality decision making for individuals with Chronic Kidney Disease. The purpose of this systematic review was to increase our understanding of the processes of dialysis modality decision-making or how elements of context influence decision making.

After a systematic search, including six databases, fifteen studies met the inclusion criteria. Meta-ethnography was used to translate the studies into one another into an interpretive analysis. Across all the studies, decisions were made in response to the nature and context of the patient's life. Dominant themes across decisions were: 1) The illusion of choice. 2) For those who were given a choice this decision was of great significance—a matter of life or death. 3) Minimization of the intrusiveness of dialysis on quality of life, autonomy, values and sense of self and 4) decision making was not done in isolation, knowledge and support were essential.

Modality decisions are very personal and strongly influenced by values of patients and their families, the context of their life and a desire for minimal intrusiveness. These findings emphasize the need for planned and timely discussions about dialysis modality in which home-based dialysis is presented as a viable option. Support from health professionals should focus on patient and family preparation, knowledge of different modalities and the likely implications of different modality choices to their lives.

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