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Peritoneal Dialysis in Octogenarians

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Increasing number of elderly patients with end stage renal disease (ESRD) are admitted for dialysis. Peritoneal dialysis (PD) is rare and under-utilized in the very old population especially those over the age of 80 years. The elderly patients in our PD program all attended the 2-hour kidney seminar where they learned the treatment options for ESRD. The education they received during the kidney seminar allowed them to choose the home peritoneal dialysis.

This abstract describes our experience with the elderly PD patients with an average age of 83 years. Hypertension and diabetes are the main causes of ESRD. Three out of six elderly patients have care partners to help with their daily dialysis. The average training per elderly patient was 15 days with one patient utilizing an interpreter to successfully train care partner in Vietnamese.

In conclusion, octogenarian ESRD patients can successfully do peritoneal dialysis at home with the help of their care partners and comprehensive training respectively. Our results show no peritonitis episode in 160 patient months. Hospitalization rate was higher this year compared to previous years. The PD training nurse must be patient, resourceful and supportive to the elderly patient's desire to successfully perform peritoneal dialysis at home.

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