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## **KNOW-CKD: Building Evidence Through a Prospective CKD Cohort**

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The KoreaN cohort study for Outcome in patients With Chronic Kidney Disease (KNOW-CKD) was established to mitigate the escalating burden of end-stage kidney disease in South Korea by elucidating the clinical trajectory and ethnic-specific risk factors within the Korean population. This nationwide, multicenter longitudinal prospective study encompasses a comprehensive spectrum of chronic kidney disease (CKD) from stages G1 to G5ND. Since its inception, the cohort has maintained a high-fidelity database characterized by an exceptionally low attrition rate, providing a robust evidentiary foundation for long-term clinical investigation. Over a follow-up period exceeding a decade, critical determinants of disease progression—including obesity phenotypes, metabolic derangements, and blood pressure variability—have been rigorously identified. These findings have been instrumental in the formulation of evidence-based national clinical practice guidelines tailored to Korean patients. Furthermore, comparative analyses with international cohorts, most notably the Chronic Renal Insufficiency Cohort (CRIC) study in the United States, have delineated both universal and population-specific predictors of GFR decline, cardiovascular complications, and all-cause mortality. Such cross-ethnic evidence significantly enhances the global understanding of CKD pathophysiology. Future research priorities focus on the optimization of kidney failure risk prediction models. Through the validation and recalibration of international equations for the Korean context, the study aims to refine prognostic accuracy and facilitate the integration of digital clinical decision support systems. As the cohort transitions into its subsequent phase, international collaborations are being actively expanded. The longitudinal data of KNOW-CKD serves as an open resource for global collaborative initiatives, aimed at advancing precision nephrology and personalizing therapeutic strategies for the global CKD

community.

**Keywords:** KNOW-CKD, Cohort, CKD