

## Effect of Clinical Characteristics at Initiation of Dialysis on the Long-term Outcome in Patients with Chronic Renal Failure

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**Background:** In spite of the advance of knowledge and improvements in technology, there are no uniform objective criteria for the initiation of dialysis therapy in patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD). We performed retrospective study in Japanese patients who initiated maintenance dialysis therapy at Jikei University Hospital from 1993 to 2001. The purpose was to estimate the clinical and laboratory characteristics in the patients and to analyze the relationships of clinical symptoms and laboratory factors at initiation of dialysis with long-term outcome.

**Methods:** The study population consisted of 615 patients who started dialysis therapy between January 1993 and December 2001 at Jikei University Hospital. Data was collected reviewing annual records for the initiation of dialysis and charts of patients. The main outcome measure was death. It was obtained in each patient by using medical records. GFR was predicted by an equation developed from the Modification of Diet in Renal Disease Study.

**Results:** Mean age was  $57.5 \pm 13.7$  years and mean duration of dialysis was 54 months. The mean GFR at the onset of dialysis was  $5.4 \pm 2.4$  ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>. 143 (23.3%) of 615 patients died during follow-up. 424 (68.9%) started dialysis treatment later than recommended by the NKF-K/DOQI guideline. Factors associated with prognosis of patients are followings: age, diabetes, the degree of disorders for daily life, serum albumin, systolic blood pressure.

**Conclusion:** Changing and dominating profiles of newly introduced dialysis patients, such as aging and diabetes, and the influential factors for patient prognosis are revealed in this survey. A new criterion for initiating dialysis is warranted based on these observational results.