

Recent Progress in Clinical Research Center for ESRD in Korea

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There are 11 clinical research centers (CRCs) in Korea. Each center is established for certain disease entity which is the leading cause of death or big burden for health status in Korea. Among them, CRC for ESRD was established at the end of 2008. The final goals of CRC are 1) comparison of survival and quality of life (QOL) according to dialysis modality 2) improving survival and QOL of ESRD patients 3) establishing clinical practice guideline. Several prospective trials including randomized controlled trials are on-going in this center. The most important study of this project is entitled 'Comprehensive Prospective Study for Mode of Dialysis Therapy and Outcomes in ESRD'. It is a kind of comparative effectiveness research which compares two or more types of treatment. The study design is a multicenter, prospective, longitudinal, observational comparative outcome study. The study population is the incident and prevalent dialysis patients in Korea including HD and PD. The purposes of the study are 1) to compare complications and mortality of HD with those of PD in Korean ESRD patients 2) to analyze the treatment effects on QOL by dialysis modality 3) to analyze cost-effectiveness by dialysis modality. The primary outcomes are all cause mortality and change/termination of treatment modality. Data collection began in July 2009. At January 2011, detailed longitudinal data collection continued at 3,112 (837 incident and 2275 prevalent) patients. Nation-wide 33 hospitals (university-based and general hospitals) are participating in this study. The data collection instruments were designed to gather detailed information characterizing medical background/preexisting comorbid conditions, dialysis modality, individual patient prescription, cardiovascular complication, anemia, dialysis dose, dietician and nutritional status, dialysis-related cost. Patients are asked to complete questionnaires that include Korean version of KDQOL and BDI with linguistic validation. Because the study is now at early phase, the analysis of cross-sectional data showing practice pattern will be presented.