

Comparison of Uremic Pruritus between Patients with Hemodialysis and Peritoneal Dialysis

Ji Won Min¹, Su-Hyun Kim², Hyung Wook Kim¹, Young Ok Kim¹, Dong Chan Jin¹
Ho Chul Song¹, Euy Jin Choi¹, Yong-Lim Kim³, Yon-Su Kim⁴, Shin-Wook Kang⁵
Nam-Ho Kim⁶, Chul Woo Yang¹, Yong Kyun Kim¹

Department of Internal Medicine College of Medicine¹ The Catholic University of Korea
Department of Internal Medicine College of Medicine² Chung-Ang University
Department of Internal Medicine School of Medicine³ Kyungpook National University
Department of Internal Medicine College of Medicine⁴ Seoul National University
Department of Internal Medicine College of Medicine⁵ Yonsei University
Department of Internal Medicine⁶ Chonnam National University Medical School

Background: Uremic pruritus is a common and unpleasant complication of End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD). In this study, we investigated and compared the prevalence of uremic pruritus, the intensity and distribution of itching sense of uremic pruritus between patients on HD and PD.

Methods: A total of 425 HD and 223 PD patients from Clinical Research Center registry for ESRD cohort in Korea were assessed for the intensity of pruritus, scratching activity, distribution of pruritus and frequency of pruritus-related sleep disturbance by visual analogue scale (VAS) and questionnaire. Patients were categorized into two groups by the existence of pruritus. Patients were followed-up prospectively and median follow-up period was 18 months.

Results: The prevalence of uremic pruritus was higher in PD patients than HD patients (62.6 %vs 48.3%, $p=0.001$). In patients with uremic pruritus, there was no significant difference in intensity of pruritus, scratching activity, distribution of pruritus and frequency of pruritus-related sleep disturbance between PD patients and HD patients. Kaplan-Meier analysis showed that the presence of uremic pruritus was not associated with mortality in HD patients ($p=0.174$, Log-rank) as well as PD patients ($p=0.685$, Log-rank)

Conclusions: Our data showed that uremic pruritus was more prevalent in PD patients than HD patients, while there was no difference in intensity and distribution of uremic pruritus between HD and PD patients.

Key Words: Uremic pruritus, Dialysis