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Native Arteriovenous Fistula Placement Is the Best Option for Patients` Survival Benefit Regardless Age

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Background: Arteriovenous fistula (AVF) is the ideal vascular access (VA) because its use is known to be associated with the favorable patient`s survival. However, the survival benefits by AVF use may be compromised due to the limited life expectancy of elderly hemodialysis (HD) patients.

Methods: A total of 49735 HD patients were analyzed in the current study from Korean Society Nephrology registry. Patients` survivals of AVF, arteriovenous graft (AVG) and catheter were compared.

Results: AVF use was associated with better patient`s survival compared with AVG and catheter use (p <0.001 and p <0.001 respectively). Even in octogenarian population (≥ 80 years old, n = 2956), AVF use was associated with better patient`s survival compared with AVG use (p <0.001). Catheter use was also associated with worse patient`s survival even only compared with selected complicated AVG such as femoro-femoral or axillo-axillary ones (p <0.001).

Conclusion: Our study suggested AVF use is associated with better patient`s outcome regardless age compared with AVG use and catheter should be the last resort for HD patients.

Keywords: Vascular access, arteriovenous fistula, arteriovenous graft, catheter, survival