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### Comparison of Patients' Survival between AVG and Catheter as a Permanent Hemodialysis Vascular Access

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**Objectives :** Guidelines emphasizes that catheter should be the last resort for hemodialysis. Nevertheless, in clinical fields, not a few elderly patients use catheter as a permanent vascular access due to their comorbidities or limited life expectancy.

**Methods :** Total 9250 HD patients with AVG (n=5659) or catheter (n=3591) as their permanent vascular access from Korean Society Nephrology registry were analyzed in the current study. Patients' survivals between AVG and catheter were compared.

**Results :** AVG use was associated with better patient's survival compared with catheter ( $p < 0.001$ ). Even in very old HD patients (>85 years old), AVG use was associated with better patient's survival compared with catheter ( $p = 0.001$ ). Catheter use (n=3591) was also associated with the worse patient's survival compared even miscellaneous AVG (n=69) such as femoro-femoral or axillo-axillary ones ( $p < 0.001$ ). Propensity score matching for the precise comparison was used between miscellaneous AVG and catheter groups. Even after propensity score matching, miscellaneous AVG group still showed better patient's survival compared with catheter group ( $p = 0.001$ ).

**Conclusions :** Our study emphasizes AVG placement should be encouraged to minimize catheter use even in very old HD patients.

**Keywords :** Catheter, AVG, hemodialysis, survival