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Mortality outcomes for incident dialysis patients with mental or physical disabilities according to dialysis modality: A national population-based study in Korea

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Objectives : Several previous studies have assessed which dialysis modality was more effective for reducing mortality in disabled end-stage renal disease patients, but the results were inconsistent. Thus, we investigated interactions between type of disability and dialysis modality, and their effects on mortality in a nationwide, population-based cohort in Korea.

Methods : Several previous studies have assessed which dialysis modality was more effective for reducing mortality in disabled end-stage renal disease patients, but the results were inconsistent. Thus, we investigated interactions between type of disability and dialysis modality, and their effects on mortality in a nationwide, population-based cohort in Korea.

Results : During the median follow-up period of 24.5 months, the patients with disabilities had significantly higher mortality rates than those without disabilities (P<0.001). However, there were no significant differences between patients with physical disability and those with mental disability (P=0.791). When further stratified by dialysis modality, peritoneal dialysis (PD) was associated with 62% higher mortality than hemodialysis (HD) in the disabled. However, this PD-related higher mortality was only detected in patients with physical disability (P<0.001), but not in those with mental disability (P=0.176).

Conclusions : Between dialysis modalities, PD was associated with significantly higher mortality than was PD across subgroups, with the exception of the mentally disabled. Therefore, physicians should take care when choosing PD as an initial dialysis modality, particularly for physically disabled patients.

Keywords : hemodialysis; peritoneal dialysis; disability; mortality