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Prevalence and Clinical Characteristics of Saudi Dialysis Patients with or without Positive Family Histories of Kidney Disease.

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Objectives:
To evaluate the prevalence and clinical characteristics of Saudi dialysis patients with a positive family history of kidney disease and to compare these to those without such a history.
Secondary objective was to assess the certainty of the diagnoses of causes CKD among by the physicians

Methods: This is a cross-sectional survey based study on adult Saudi patients on hemodialysis in in four Saudi cities.
The survey had two parts. The first part (filled by the physicians) asked about the patient's sex, age, dialysis vintage, CKD vintage, cause of the renal failure and whether the diagnosis is definitive or speculative. The second part (filled by the patients) asked about the presence of kidney disease among first degree relatives

Results:
1080 patients were included, 55.4% males. The mean age was 56.1±20 years, the dialysis vintage was 5.7±5.9 years and the mean time between diagnosis of CKD and onset of dialysis was 3.0±5.6 years
Table 1 shows the causes of the CKD as determined by the patients' physician and its certainty; 57.8% were either "unknown" (33%) or only "speculative (25.3%). In those with a diagnostic label, the diagnosis was thought to be definitive in only 62.2% of the cases"'.
21.5% had first-degree relatives with kidney disease. More patients with "unknown" or "hypertensive" diagnosis were seen among patients with FH than in those without (p=007 and 0.005).
No difference in the prevalence FH was seen by age (p=0.5). Dialysis vintage was shorter (p=0.03) and CKD vintage longer (p=0.0001) in the patients with FH (table 2)

Conclusions: More patients with "unknown" or "hypertensive" diagnostic labels were seen in patients with FH suggesting that under the umbrella of "unknown" or "hypertensive" diagnostic labels, genetically-based kidney diseases might well be concealed. Dialysis vintage was significantly shorter and CKD vintage was significantly longer in the patients with FH.

The causes of the CKD as determined by the patients' physician and whether this diagnosis is "definitive" or "speculative".

Unknown	33		
Diabetic nephropathy	32.2	52.3%	47.7%
Hypertension	20.1	58.5%	41.5%
Glomerulonephritis	5.1	83.3%	16.7%
Lupus Nephritis	2	90.5%	9.5%
APKD	1.8	94.7%	5.3%
Congenitally small kidneys	1.4	90%	10%
Calculi	0.8	100%	0%
Chronic interstitial nephritis	3.1	69%	31%
Joubert' s	0.3	50%	50%
Alport's Syndrome	0.2	100%	0%
All	100%	62.2%	37.8%

Table 1 The causes of the CKD as determined by the patients' physician and whether this diagnosis is "definitive" or "speculative".

Patient characteristics	Positive FH	Negative FH	p
Among male patients	18.8%	80.2%	
Among female patients	23%	77%	P=0.09
Mean patient age	55.3 yrs.	56.4 yrs.	0.5
Dx vintage among all patients	4.9 ±6.4	5.9 ±5.8	0.03
CKD vintage among patients	7.5±7.7	2.0±4.5	0.0001

Table 2 Comparing some patient characteristics between those with and those without FH of kidney diseases