

**Abstract Type : Poster**

**Abstract Submission No. : PO-1286**

## **Attitudes toward advance care plan and hemodialysis as a life-sustaining therapy in hemodialysis patients**

**Jangwook Lee**<sup>1</sup>, CY Lim<sup>2</sup>, Jae Yoon Park<sup>3</sup>, Seong Eun Nam<sup>4</sup>, Hyo Jin Kim<sup>5</sup>, Kyung Soo Kim<sup>3</sup>, Sung Joon Shin<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Internal Medicine-Nephrology, Seoul National University Hospital, Korea, Republic of

<sup>2</sup>Department of Clinical Trial Center, Dongguk University Ilsan Hospital, Dongguk University School of Medicine, Korea, Republic of

<sup>3</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Dongguk University Ilsan Hospital, Dongguk University School of Medicine, Korea, Republic of

<sup>4</sup>Department of Internal Medicine-Nephrology, Dongguk University Ilsan Hospital, Korea, Republic of

<sup>5</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Dongguk University College of Medicine, Korea, Republic of

**Objectives:** Act on hospice and palliative care and decisions on life-sustaining treatment for patients at the end of life (Act on End-of-Life Care) came into effect on February 4th, 2018 in South Korea. Even though hemodialysis is one of life-sustaining treatments that can be withhold or withdrawn, the perspectives of hemodialysis patients about Act on End-of-Life Care has not been thoroughly investigated. The aim of the study is to evaluate the attitudes of maintenance hemodialysis patients toward advance care plan and hemodialysis as a life-sustaining therapy.

**Methods:** A semi-structured interview was conducted on 27 hemodialysis patients. The interviews took place at a pre-scheduled date and time in a quiet room at the hemodialysis unit between July 2018 and February 2019.

**Results:** Twenty seven subjects (11 women), with a mean age of 59 years, participated in the study. Most of them (77%) answered they heard about Act on End-of-Life Care but only four (14%) knew exactly that hemodialysis belonged to life-sustaining treatments based on the Act. Sixteen subjects (59%) hoped to make end-of-life care decisions by themselves. Only six patients (22%) wanted a physician in charge to make the decision on behalf of them. Even though more than half of them (74%) did not discuss about end-of-life care with their family, they wanted their family to make the decision in case of unconsciousness. Eighteen subjects (66%) wanted to withhold hemodialysis near the end of life. The degree of prior knowledge of advance care plan was associated with increasing willingness to complete advance directives.

**Conclusions:** To improve the quality of end-of-life care of maintenance hemodialysis patients, more efforts should be made to reveal and understand their perspectives and attitudes toward advance care plan and hemodialysis as a life-sustaining therapy.