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Clinical characteristics and mortality of extreme elderly hemodialysis patients: Data analysis from Korean ESRD Registry

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Objectives: The number of elderly patients started hemodialysis (HD) has been increasing. This study aimed to investigate the clinical characteristics and mortality outcomes of elderly HD patients

Methods: Patients on HD were included in end-stage renal disease registry of the Korean Society of Nephrology between 2000 and 2019. Among them, incident HD patients aged ≥ 65 with registered current patients' status and initial HD information were analyzed. Patients were categorized according to age at HD start, young-old (64-75 years), middle-old (75-84 years), and oldest-old (≥ 85 years) group.

Results: Mean patient age was 73.6 ± 6.2 years and 57.5% (7482 patients) were male. A total of 13,019 patients, there were 59.3% (7716), 35.0% (4562), and 5.7% (741) in young-old, middle-old, and oldest-old group, respectively. The proportion of oldest-old group has been increasing over the years; 0.6%, 1.3%, 2.2%, and 3.7 % in HD start year 2000-2004, 2005-2009, 2010-2014, and 2015-2019, respectively. HD less than 3 times/week and HD via central vein catheter were higher in oldest-old group. Body mass index was lower and serum albumin and phosphorous value were lower in oldest-old group. During follow-up period (23.0 ± 29.5 year), 73.3%, 72.1%, and 71.8% patients were dead in young-old, middle-old, and oldest-old group, respectively. In Kaplan-Meier analysis, survival rate was lower in oldest-old group ($P < 0.001$). Five-year survival rate was 56.3%, 39.8%, and 24.5% in young-old, middle-old, and oldest-old group, respectively.

Conclusions: The rate of oldest-old patients is increasing in Korean HD patients and five-year survival rate was 24.5% in oldest-old group.

Figure 1. Age groups according to HD start year

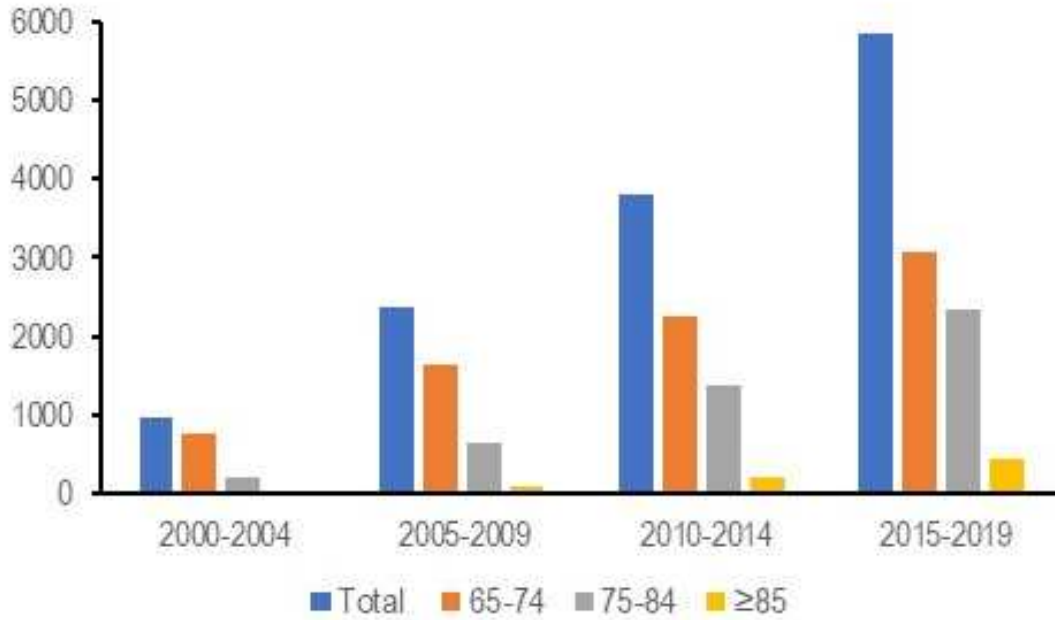


Figure 2. Cumulative survival rate according to age groups.

