

Clinical Characteristics of Uremic Pruritus in Hemodialysis Patients

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Background: Although pruritus is a common, unpleasant symptom in patients on maintenance hemodialysis (HD), its pathogenesis remains unclear. The aim of this study was to evaluate the frequency of pruritus in HD patients and to correlate its presence and intensity with several clinical and laboratory parameters.

Methods: One hundred ninety patients (M:F=90:100) on maintenance HD enrolled the study. Several clinical and laboratory parameters (age, sex, duration of dialysis, type of membrane, underlying renal disease, medications, dose of erythropoietin [EPO] and laboratory findings including hematocrit, BUN, β_2 -microglobulin (β_2 MG) and lipid profile were evaluated to find a correlation with the pruritus.

Results: Seventy patients complained of pruritus (Group I, M:F=34:36), while remaining 120 did not (Group II, M:F=56:64). Mean age was significantly higher in Group I (59.6 ± 14.8 vs. 54.3 ± 13.6 years old, $p < 0.05$). There was no difference in sex, types of membrane, primary renal disease, serum β_2 MG, ESR, EPO dose, duration of dialysis and serum albumin levels between the groups. The mean value of Kt/V was higher in Group II (1.39 ± 0.36 vs. 1.51 ± 0.27 , $p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: Pruritus was more common in older patients and in those with lower Kt/V but other clinical characteristics and laboratory findings did not correlate with uremic pruritus.

Key Words: 소양증, 혈액투석

Pruritus, Hemodialysis