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Session Title : Dialysis 1 (Hemodialysis)

Session Topic : Unresolved Issues in the Care of HD Patients

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## **Hemodialysis in the Elderly Patients: Practical Concerns and Considerations**

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End-stage kidney disease (ESKD) presents a significant public health challenge. The global count of patients requiring renal replacement therapy (RRT) reached 2.61 million in 2010 and is projected to rise to 5.43 million by 2030. In Korea, similar trends are observed with a steadily increasing incidence of hemodialysis (HD) treatment, largely attributed to the nation's rapidly aging population. Currently, over half of the dialysis patients in Korea are aged 60 or older. As the dialysis population ages, distinct challenges emerge. HD in elderly and very elderly patients differs significantly from that in younger cohorts, necessitating a nuanced understanding to effectively manage their care. Although HD may offer advantages over conservative management or peritoneal dialysis for older adults, no guidelines have yet been established for optimal HD in this demographic. Notably, mortality rates are higher among older dialysis patients compared to their non-dialysis counterparts. Additionally, comorbidity and frailty are prevalent among elderly HD patients. This session will address the urgent need for shared decision-making involving patients, family members, and caregivers concerning the initiation, continuation, and termination of dialysis in elderly patients. We will discuss recent developments and the specific challenges faced by this vulnerable group

**Keywords:** elderly, hemodialysis, SDM