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Green nephrology

So Mi Kim

Dankook University Hospital, Republic of Korea

Recently, as climate change has emerged as a major problem that threatens human survival, various efforts are being made to raise awareness and reduce carbon emission within the medical community. The prevalence of end-stage kidney disease is on the rise worldwide, and due to the nature of dialysis treatment, it must last for a lifetime, not a one-off, and as treatment consumes enormous water, energy, and medical supplies, it can be assumed that dialysis has a significant impact on the environment even within the medical community. Currently, there is a consensus in Korea that it is necessary to analyze the impact of the medical industry on the environment, but there is no basic environmental data yet, so carbon emissions are inferred based on foreign data regarding renal replacement therapy. However, it is difficult to collectively apply foreign data to Korea because each country has different energy, water supply policies, medical waste management laws, and transportation infrastructure. Therefore, it is essential to collect basic data on the environmental impact of dialysis tailored to the medical situation in Korea. Since 2023, the Korean Society of Nephrology has been making efforts to establish Korean guidelines for sustainable kidney care along with active promotion of green nephrology. In this session, I would like to introduce the preparation process for position statement and recommendations for sustainable kidney care and future research.

Keywords: green nephrology , carbon emission