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Session Name : Peritoneal Dialysis

Session Topic : Peritoneal Dialysis

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Assisted Peritoneal Dialysis for Elderly ESKD Patients

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The Korean dialysis population is aging rapidly. According to the Korean Society of Nephrology's End-Stage Kidney Disease Fact Sheet 2024, the mean age of ESKD patients reached 65.9 years in 2022, and 56.6% of all ESKD patients—59% of hemodialysis (HD) patients—are aged 65 or older. Yet peritoneal dialysis (PD) accounts for only 4% of incident renal replacement therapy in Korea, leaving a substantial gap in home-based care for elderly patients who face challenges with conventional in-center HD—thrice-weekly visits, post-dialysis fatigue, intradialytic hypotension, and caregiver burden. Assisted PD, in which a trained nurse, family member, or aide performs the exchange, offers a clinically robust alternative. A propensity-matched Taiwanese cohort of incident elderly ESKD patients (Peng et al., 2023; n=36,852) showed PD was associated with lower major adverse cardiac and cerebrovascular events (HR 0.74) and MACCE-associated mortality (HR 0.62) than HD, although infection risk was higher (HR 1.28); all-cause mortality did not differ. The French Language Peritoneal Dialysis Registry (Duquennoy et al., 2016; n=8,396) further found age >75 years was not an independent peritonitis risk factor (HR 0.97), and that nurse-assisted PD lowered peritonitis risk vs self-care PD (HR 0.85, 95% CI 0.78–0.94). Patient selection should be driven by function rather than chronologic age. Frailty—highly prevalent among incident dialysis patients (Johansen et al., JASN 2007)—can be quantified with the Clinical Frailty Scale to inform modality decisions. The ISPD 2024 position paper outlines structured assisted PD program components including standardized training, infection prevention, remote monitoring, and 24/7 response pathways. International programs in France, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, and Canada demonstrate that funded nurse-assisted PD is feasible and sustainable. Aligning with the KSN Kidney Health Plan 2033—targeting a 33% home-dialysis rate—this lecture reviews the clinical evidence, program implementation, and the reimbursement and workforce infrastructure needed to expand

assisted PD in Korea.

Keywords: Assisted peritoneal dialysis, Elderly ESKD, Frailty, Home dialysis, Nurse-assisted PD