

Abstract Submission No. : 2564

The efficacy of nationwide 'Homecare for peritoneal dialysis patients' : A single-center, retrospective study

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Objectives: Peritoneal dialysis (PD) is one of the kidney replacement therapy and unskilled peritoneal catheter manipulation causes the catheter related infection including continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) peritonitis and exit site infection (ESI). It is important to monitor and educate PD patients properly. Recently, the Ministry of Health and Welfare in Korea has been conducting 'the homecare for PD patient', however, its efficacy has not been evaluated. Therefore, this study aimed to investigate the effect of this business plan on the prognosis of PD patients.

Methods: A total of 149 patients undergoing maintenance PD who were registered in the peritoneal dialysis center in Yonsei University Health System from June 2019 to February 2021 were analyzed. Patients who did not sign the informed consent were excluded. The patients were divided into two groups according to whether they had the 'Doctor's counselling session' or not. The primary outcome was PD related infection (CAPD peritonitis and exit-site infection). The secondary outcomes were the change in laboratory values.

Results: The mean ages of the patients were 54 years and 50.3% were male. A total of 87 patients agreed to have doctors' counselling session (DCS (+) group), and 72 patients refused (DCS (-) group). The infection event was 1.8 times higher in DCS (-) group compared with DCS (+) group, but not statistically significant (43.1% vs. 25.3%; $P = 0.164$). The logistic regression revealed the decreased odds ratio (OR), but not statistically significant (OR, 0.46; 95% CI, 0.20-1.08). The DCS (+) group showed improvement in laboratory values including hemoglobin, calcium, phosphate, potassium, and parathyroid hormone, but also not statistically significant.

Conclusions: Having the doctor's counselling session might be related with lower risk of infection and improved laboratory results in PD patients. Further multicenter studies are needed to verify these findings.