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The Role of the Korean Society of Nephrology Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee in Managing Patients With End-Stage Kidney Disease

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The increasing frequency and severity of global natural disasters and conflicts have underscored the urgent need for coordinated renal disaster preparedness. Patients with kidney diseases, particularly those with kidney failure, are especially vulnerable during crises, often facing significant barriers in accessing dialysis and immunosuppressive treatments. In South Korea, the establishment of the Renal Disaster Response Society was driven by responses to major incidents: the 2015 Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) outbreak led to the formation of a task force to address the specific needs of dialysis patients infected by the virus. Similarly, the 2016 and 2017 earthquakes in Gyeongju and Pohang revealed the critical need for a systematic approach to the transfer and care of dialysis patients, prompting the creation of the Renal Disaster Relief Task Force. Additionally, the 2019 COVID-19 outbreak highlighted the necessity for structured infectious disease management, leading to the development of comprehensive guidelines and educational support for healthcare providers. In response to these pressing challenges, the collaboration between the ISN Renal Disaster Preparedness Working Group (RDPWG) and the KSN Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee (DPRC) aims to enhance global renal disaster response. By integrating ISN's international expertise with KSN's national-level preparedness strategies, this partnership focuses on knowledge exchange, joint training, research, and the development of coordinated response protocols. Notable initiatives include research on meal planning for kidney patients during disasters and the creation of evacuation protocols for dialysis units. Ultimately, this collaboration seeks to improve the deployment of resources, streamline logistics, and ensure better care for kidney patients during crises.

Keywords: Renal disaster preparedness, Response committee, Dialysis, crisis, Collaboration