

EVALUATION OF RENAL FUNCTION RECOVERY IN HEMODIALYSIS DEPENDENT PATIENTS.

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Late recovery of renal function in patients requiring chronic outpatient dialysis is a well recognized but uncommon phenomenon. There are no recognized indicators that actually suggest such revival of renal function. Residual renal function in hemodialysis patients (pts.) is seldom followed. Therefore, renal recovery in dialysis pts. may remain unnoticed. The purpose of the study is to evaluate the incident and indicators of renal recovery in dialysis dependent pts.

Retrospective chart review of pts who were initiated on hemodialysis during the time period from January 2005 to June 2008 was done. Pts. who recovered renal function (n=9) were compared with a pt. group (n=80) who did not recover renal function.

299 pts. initiated hemodialysis at our dialysis program during the study period. Of these, 9 (3%) pts. recovered dialysis-independent renal function. 4 pts had history of chronic kidney disease and 4 pts. had renal biopsy. Causes of chronic renal failure in pts who recovered renal function were HTN (2/9), interstitial nephritis (1/9), thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (1/9), rhabdomyolysis (1/9) and glomerular diseases (4/9) which include HIV, collapsing glomerulonephritis, SLE and minimal change disease. Pts. who recovered were younger (42.88 ± 12.97 vs 42.56 ± 13.55 , $p = 0.0519$), more likely to have glomerular disease, started dialysis with higher creatinine clearance (CrCl) (14.17 ± 5.7 vs 8.89 ± 2.76 , $p = 0.0242$), lower serum albumin (2.17 ± 1.10 vs 3.49 ± 0.67 , $p = 0.007$) and none had diabetes mellitus. All pts. who recovered renal function had episode of acute renal failure. Mean duration of dialysis in pts. who recovered renal function was 4.8 months. Mean duration off dialysis was 19.55 months.

It is important to be aware of the possibility of renal function recovery in chronic dialysis patients, especially, in pts. who have episodes of acute renal failure and started on hemodialysis with higher CrCl and low serum albumin.