

Global Impact of Dialysis*Li PKT**Prince of Wales Hospital, Hong Kong*

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) of different stages affects about 10% of the global and Chinese population.

Diabetes mellitus is the major cause of end-stage kidney disease requiring dialysis around the world. In Hong Kong, about 48% of all new renal failure cases requiring renal replacement therapy are caused by diabetes, followed by glomerulonephritis (18%) and hypertension (10%). Dialysis has a significant impact on the morbidity and mortality of patients, as well as on the healthcare budget of the society. On average, the global expenses on treating end-stage renal failure patients is about 16 times that of the general population. Several approaches are needed to manage the disease.

Early detection of CKD is useful in preventing the disease from progressing to end-stage. The use of cost effective dialysis will be required to address the increasing number of patients for dialysis. Home-based therapies such as continuous ambulatory, automated peritoneal dialysis and home haemodialysis are good treatment options for these patients. Kidney transplantation is still the best treatment for kidney failure patients. Hence, the promotion of both cadaveric and live kidney donations is essential for a successful transplantation programme.