



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Quality of life before and after commencing peritoneal dialysis in Hong Kong elderly

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Introduction

Quality of life (QoL) is an important outcome measure, especially for patients with chronic disease. Patients with end-stage renal failure require renal replacement therapy including peritoneal dialysis (PD). Compared to the younger patients, the elderly patients may have more difficulties in dealing with PD. This study aimed to assess the change in QoL in elderly patients following PD, and to determine the predictors of QoL change.

Objectives

This study aimed to assess the change in QoL in elderly patients following PD, and to determine the predictors of QoL change.

Methodology

31 elderly patients (≥ 60 years of age) on PD were recruited. Their QoL before and 3 months after initiation of PD treatment was measured using the Kidney Disease Quality of Life Short Form questionnaire. Patient demographics, physical and mental health status, and QoL score were collected for analysis.

Result

The QoL score increased significantly after initiation of PD ($p < 0.001$), as did that for the general health perception ($p = 0.045$), role limitations-emotional ($p = 0.018$), social functioning ($p < 0.001$), symptom list ($p = 0.008$), overall health rating ($p = 0.002$), and overall health rating compared with 1 year earlier ($p < 0.001$). Predictors for QoL increase were age ($p = 0.014$), religion ($p = 0.001$), and ability to independently perform PD ($p = 0.036$). The QoL of elderly patients with end-stage renal failure improved significantly 3 months after commencement of PD. Improvement also occurred in general health perception, role limitation by emotional disturbance, disease-related symptoms, social functioning, and overall health rating. Predictors for QoL improvement included age, presence of a religious belief, and having a helper.