Effect of Dialysis Modality on the Survival of End-Stage Renal Disease Patients Starting Dialysis in Sabah from 2007 to 2017: A Retrospective Cohort Study

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The effect of dialysis modality on the survival of end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients is of public health interest. **Methods:** In this retrospective cohort study, all adult ESRD patients who received dialysis treatment in Sabah between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2017 as identified from the Malaysian Dialysis and Transplant Registry (MDTR) were evaluated and followed up through December 31, 2018. The endpoint was all-cause mortality. The observation time was defined as the time from the date of initiation of dialysis after the onset of ESRD to whichever of the following that came first: date of death, date of transplantation, date of last follow-up, date of recovered kidney function, or December 31, 2018. Weighted Cox regression (WCR) was used to estimate the effect of dialysis modality. Analyses was restricted to patients with complete data on all variables. **Results:** A total of 2,143 patients began haemodialysis (HD) and 303 patients started with peritoneal dialysis (PD), yielding 7,549.41 (median 5.48 years/person) and 1140.11 (median 5.08 years/person) person-years of observation. Seventy-two patients (2.9%) were lost to follow-up. The median survival time was 4.55 years (95% confidence interval (CI): 4.18, 4.85) among patients who started on HD and 5.23 years (95% CI: 4.31, 6.00) among those who started on PD. The effect of dialysis modality was not significant after controlling for age, sex, diabetes mellitus, and cardiovascular diseases. The average hazard ratio (AHR) was 0.91 (95% CI: 0.77, 1.08) with HD as a reference. **Conclusion:** There was no evidence of a difference in mortality between HD and PD.

The Impact of Living with Spinal Muscular Atrophy in Malaysia from Patients' and Caregivers' Perspectives

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a recessively inherited neuromuscular disorder resulting in muscle weaknesses. With no available cure, the impact of this condition can be of manifold. The objective of this study was to understand the impact of living with SMA from the Persons with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (PWSMA) and perspectives of their caregivers. **Methods:** Participants from all over Malaysia were recruited through SMA advocacy organization. Participants answered a validated questionnaire and DASS 21 tool, followed by an In-depth Interviews (IDI) or Focus Group Discussions (FGD). Consented participants were given a date for the researchers to meet up and performed the interview. The sessions were audio-taped, and the verbatim transcripts were analyzed thematically. **Results:** In this quantitative study, participants were reported to experience stress, anxiety, and depression. In the qualitative component, the impacts of living between the PWSMA and the caregivers include issues at the time of diagnosis, poor information delivery and the absence of supportive services. The participants expressed their concerns living with self-doubt and turmoil with having to modify their lifestyles, familial relationships, and social lives. While exploring about their future hopes, themes emerged pointed towards having a united desire for better access to treatment, clinical trials, holistic care post diagnosis, and improved medical care services and disability access in public areas. **Conclusion:** Our study highlighted a plethora of issues and challenges experienced by PWSMA and their caregivers in Malaysia. Sustained efforts from all stakeholders, PWSMA and their caregivers are required to bring about changes and thus lessen the burden of living with SMA patients in Malaysia.