

Information On Temporary Hemodialysis (THD)

Introduction

Temporary hemodialysis refers to temporary dialysis with hemodialysis treatment. It applies to:

1. Patients with acute renal failure
2. End Stage Renal Failure (ESRF) patients who are on long-term peritoneal dialysis treatment but whose abdominal cavity is not suitable for dialysis at that time.

The Procedure

The patient needs first to receive a surgical operation for the creation of a 'temporary vascular access (Please read the Information Note on Percutaneous Venous Catheterization). During hemodialysis, health care professionals will connect the venous catheter to a hemodialysis machine. The patient's blood will circulate through an artificial kidney, where metabolic wastes and excess fluid will be cleared. Purified blood will then be returned to the patient's body. Each hemodialysis session takes around 2-5 hours to complete. The patient may have to undergo hemodialysis 2 to 3 times a week in the renal centre.

Risk and Complication

Common Risks and Complications

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|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Hypotension | (20-30%) |
| 2. Cramps | (5-20%) |
| 3. Nausea and Vomiting | (5-15%) |
| 4. Headache | (5%) |
| 5. Chest Pain including Angina | (2-5%) |
| 6. Back Pain | (2-5%) |
| 7. Itchiness | (5%) |
| 8. Fever, Chills | (<1%) |
| 9. Risk of Bleeding | |

Rare Complications and Potential Serious Consequences

Disequilibrium syndrome, allergic reaction to the artificial kidney and/or blood lines, cardiac arrhythmias, cerebral haemorrhage, convulsion, haemolysis, air embolism and cardiac arrest.

Before the Procedure

Before being accepted into the THD program, patients must agree on the following:

1. The patient must agree with temporary hemodialysis and understand the possible complications of the treatment.
2. The treatment is essential in maintaining the patient's life. The patient must follow the health care professionals' advice and instructions and receive treatment according to schedule.
3. To achieve optimal results, the patient must follow the advice of dietitian or other health care professionals on diet restrictions and be compliant to prescribed medications.

4. The creation of a 'temporary vascular access' is a surgery necessary for hemodialysis. If vascular access is not functioning well, repeated operation may be needed.
5. Learn to take care of the 'temporary vascular access' and know the possible complications.
6. If patient shows signs of anaemia in the course of treatment, blood transfusions or other treatment may be needed.
7. According to the medical condition of the patient, the renal centre may change the treatment form or terminate hemodialysis under the following situations:
 - (a) The patient cannot tolerate hemodialysis treatment.
 - (b) Repeated operation for the creation of a 'temporary vascular access' fails.
 - (c) The patient refuses to undergo necessary examinations, procedures or surgeries.
 - (d) The patient shows certain contra-indications such as mental disease, stroke, terminal cancer, incurable disease or incompetence of self-care.
8. The patient must understand that temporary hemodialysis is a transitional treatment. Hemodialysis shall cease when the patient's kidney begins to function again (as in the case of acute renal failure), or when long-term peritoneal dialysis starts (ESRF patients for continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis or automatic peritoneal dialysis treatment), or when patient and his/her family opt for palliative care. Health care professionals will remove the 'temporary vascular access' to avoid complications.

During the Course of Treatment

After starting THD, patient should inform the renal centre of the following:

1. Abnormalities of the 'temporary vascular access' (Please refer to the Information Note on Percutaneous Venous Catheterization).
2. Ailments such as cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, fever, abnormal blood pressure (too high or too low), edema, shortness of breath, dizziness, general weakness and signs of bleeding (such as conjunctival bleeding, nose bleeding, coughing up blood, tarry stool and bruising) or injuries.
3. If patient's condition is serious, the helper should take him/her (or by ambulance) to hospital for emergency treatment.

Remarks

This is general information only and the list of complications is not exhaustive. Other unforeseen complications may occasionally occur. In special patient groups, the actual risk may be different. For further information please contact your doctor or the respective renal centre.