Dearth of Local Research Data on Hemodialysis

History of the science of dialysis and the birth of dialysis treatments can be traced back to the seminal work of Thomas Graham (1805-1869) on the nature of diffusion of gases and osmosis in fluid. But it was not until 1945 when Willem Johan Kolff achieved the first clinically successful hemodialysis in human patient. This has significantly improved the survival of patients with end-stage renal disease ever since; advances in the science of dialysis and the development of various permutations of dialysis treatments and its practice has further improved survival. Even among the elderly population the median survival time has also improved, as reported in literature including the report published in this issue by Dr. Rachel Siute and Dr. Arlene Crisostomo.

It must be stated, that there is a dearth of local published data on dialysis. A PubMed search for “hemodialysis” yielded 3609 articles for this year alone. A parallel online search on Herdin, the Philippines’ local repository of published and unpublished research data, using the same keyword generated only 165 articles collated for the past 20 years or more. This presented a welcome opportunity to have published in the Philippine Journal of Nephrology, the first Philippine Clinical Practice Guidelines on Hemodialysis, a document that shall guide local practice of hemodialysis in achievement of better outcomes for the increasing number of patients on dialysis.

More than serving as a guide for clinical practice, the CPG has also summarized and outlined the gap in the local knowledge and future areas of local research which will hopefully provide a clearer answer to the quality and outcome of the unique local practice of hemodialysis. The Philippine Journal of Nephrology online will be here to collaborate in publishing this data.

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