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https://escholarship.org/uc/item/05r7t6h2

Journal

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF KIDNEY DISEASES, 59(4)

ISSN

0272-6386

Authors

Molnar, Miklos Z Streja, Elani Kovesdy, Csaba P et al.

Publication Date

2012

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Peer reviewed

NKF 2012 Spring Clinical Meetings Abstracts



Am J Kidney Dis. 2012;59(4):A1-A92

A57

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ESTIMATED GLOMERULAR FILTRATION RATE AT RE-INITIATION OF DIALYSIS AND MORTALITY IN FAILED KIDNEY TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS

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Recent observational studies and a controlled trial suggest more favorable outcomes upon later dialysis initiation in chronic kidney disease patients. The role of estimated GFR in predicting outcome at re-initiation of dialysis in failed kidney transplant recipients is unclear. Five-year data in a large dialysis organization was linked to the national database (SRTR) to identify 747 failed kidney transplant patients with CKD Stage-5 (eGFR<15 ml/min/1.73m²), who had re-started dialysis therapy. A propensity score (PS) for early (eGFR>10.5 ml/min/1.73m²) vs. late re-initiation of dialysis was fit by logistic regression. The mortality hazard ratio (HR) was then estimated using tertiles of the fitted PS. Patients were 44±14 years old and included 42% women. Male gender (odds ratio [OR], (95%CI): 1.82(1.22-2.73)), presence of diabetes (OR:1.75(1.14-2.68)) and peripheral vascular disease (OR:3.55(1.17-10.77)) were associated with higher odds of early initiation of dialysis. Each ml/min/1.73m² higher eGFR was associated

Likelihood of dialysis	Unadjusted	Adjusted model	Fully Adjusted
re-initiation at higher	model		model
eGFR (in PS tertiles)	HR (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)
Lowest tertile	1.05 (0.94-1.17)	1.09 (0.98-1.22)	1.10 (0.98-1.24)
Middle tertile	1.01 (0.92-1.11)	1.02 (0.93-1.12)	1.00 (0.91-1.10)
Highest tertile	1.02 (0.95-1.09)	1.00 (0.93-1.08)	0.99 (0.92-1.07)

with 6% higher death risk in unadjusted model (HR:1.06(1.01-1.11)), and same trends were observed in fully adjusted models, which was more prominent in women and younger patients. Table shows the death HR of eGFR across lowest to highest tertiles of propensity score of early dialysis initiation, indicating a trend between higher eGFR at dialysis re-initiation and death risk in the healthiest subgroups. Hence, re-initiation of dialysis at higher eGFR levels in failed kidney transplant patients was not associated with greater survival.