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Authors

Streia, Elani
Hechter, Rulm Cai
Kovesdy, Csaba
[et al.](#)

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Does Nutrition and Inflammation Status Account for Greater Survival in Black Maintenance Hemodialysis Patients?

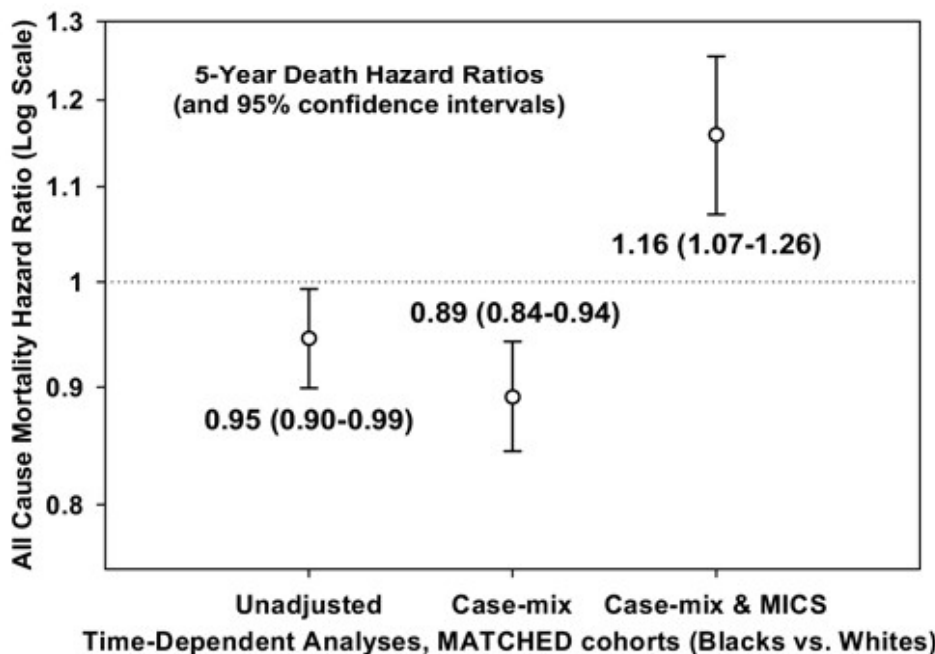
Elani Streja¹, Rulin Cai Hechter¹, Csaba Kovesdy³, John Robertson⁴, Charles J McAllister⁴, Joel D Kopple², and Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh^{1,2}

¹Harold Simmons Center for Kidney Disease Research & Epidemiology,

²Harbor-UCLA, Torrance, CA³; VA, Salem, VA; ⁴DaVita, El Segundo, CA

Background: Although Blacks have shorter life expectancy than Whites in the general population, greater survival is reported in Black maintenance hemodialysis (MHD) patients (pts) compared to White MHD pts. We hypothesized that this “apparent” survival advantage is due to better nutritional/inflammatory status in Black MHD pts.

Methods: Using an incidence-density case-control study, matched 1:1 randomly on dialysis start time (vintage and incident calendar quarter), age (+/-5 yrs), gender, diabetes, and location (state), death hazard ratios in the 7/2001-6/2007 DaVita cohort of 21,214 Black/White MHD pairs were examined via Cox regression adjusted for case-mix and surrogates of malnutrition-inflammation complex syndrome (MICS). **Results:** Time-dependent adjustment for MICS surrogates disclosed higher death risk in Black pts than Whites (HR changed from 0.89 to 1.16):



Conclusions: Better nutritional-inflammatory profile of Black MHD pts may be the reason for their greater survival compared to Whites.