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392

**HOSPITALIZATION RATES IN A NATIONAL COHORT OF ADVANCED CKD PATIENTS TREATED WITH CONSERVATIVE MANAGEMENT VS. DIALYSIS:**

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While dialysis has been the prevailing treatment paradigm in advanced CKD patients progressing to ESRD, this treatment approach may lead to decline in physical function, loss of independence, and greater healthcare utilization in certain subgroups. We sought to compare the impact of dialysis vs. conservative dialysis-free management on rates of hospitalization in advanced CKD patients.

We compared hospitalization rates among 309,188 advanced CKD patients treated with conservative management (CM) vs. dialysis over 1/1/07-6/30/20 from the OptumLabs® Data Warehouse (OLDW), which contains de-identified administrative claims, including medical and pharmacy claims and enrollment records for commercial and Medicare Advantage enrollees as well as electronic health record data. Patients were categorized according to receipt of CM, defined as those who did not receive dialysis within 2-years of the index eGFR (1<sup>st</sup> eGFR <25), vs. receipt of dialysis. In secondary analyses, we examined finer gradations of timing of dialysis, defined as late vs. early transition.

We used Poisson regression to compare raw- and model-based mortality rates among CM vs. dialysis patients stratified by age.

In primary analyses, patients treated with CM had lower hospitalization rates vs. those treated with dialysis across all age strata. In secondary analyses comparing CM, late vs. early dialysis, the lowest rates were observed for CM, whereas late and early dialysis demonstrated similarly high hospitalization rates irrespective of age.

In a national CKD cohort, compared to dialysis, those treated with CM as an alternative patient-centered treatment strategy had lower hospitalizations rates across all ages.

