

IMPROVING THE PRE-DIALYSIS EXPERIENCE: A NOVEL NURSE-LED MULTIDISCIPLINARY LOW CLEARANCE CLINIC

A Dodds, I Dasgupta, A Jones
Birmingham Heartlands Hospital

PROBLEM: A properly prepared patient has lower morbidity and mortality on renal replacement therapy. This requires inputs from various disciplines and various categories of medical and nursing staff, necessitating multiple visits to multiple clinics, which often makes their life miserable at this advanced stage of renal failure.

PURPOSE: To improve their experience and to streamline the service, we have recently established a multidisciplinary low clearance clinic.

DESIGN: The multidisciplinary team attending each clinic consists of 2 predialysis nurses who lead and co-ordinate the clinic, anaemia nurses, a vascular access nurse, a dietician, a vascular surgeon, and the lead nephrologist. We also have the services of a diabetes specialist nurse and the renal social worker available at the clinic. The predialysis nurse, who is the point of first contact to the patient, directs the patient to other members of the team depending on their requirement and in accordance with an agreed protocol.

FINDINGS: Early audit data suggest that this novel clinic has reduced the number of visits made by the patient and improved patient satisfaction. Haemoglobin levels have improved dramatically. All patients are reviewed by a dietician at early stage which is likely to improve their nutritional status and calcium phosphate balance. The majority of patients have access plans and higher number of patients are starting dialysis with permanent access. Moreover, this clinic has enabled us to see a large number of patients over the 3 hour clinic time.

CONCLUSION: We believe this clinic has significantly improved the care of the pre-dialysis patients and in the long run will significantly reduce morbidity and mortality of these patients on dialysis.

RELEVANCE: We would like to share our experience with the nephrology community in the UK.