

【Invited Lecture】

Global impact of Hong Kong's 'Peritoneal Dialysis First Policy' for 35 years and beyond

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Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a global problem that causes significant burden to the healthcare system and the economy. The use of home therapy including peritoneal dialysis and home hemodialysis are promoted to address such need.

Peritoneal dialysis (PD) first policy has been established in Hong Kong since 1985. After more than 35 years of practice, the PD first policy in Hong Kong has influenced many countries around the world including governments, health ministries, nephrologists and renal nurses on the overall health policy structure and clinical practice in treating kidney failure patients using PD as an important dialysis modality. In 2021, the International Association of Chinese Nephrologists and the Hong Kong Society of Nephrology jointly held a symposium celebrating the 35 years of PD first policy in Hong Kong. Experts and opinion leaders from around the world have shared their perspectives on how the PD first policy has grown and how it has affected PD and home dialysis practice globally. The advantages of PD during COVID-19 pandemic were highlighted and the use of telemedicine as an important adjunct were discussed in treating kidney failure patients to improve the overall quality of care. Barriers to PD and the need for sustainability of PD first policy were also emphasized. Overall, the knowledge awareness of PD as a home dialysis for patients, families, care providers and learners is a prerequisite for the success of PD first. A critical mass of PD regional hubs is needed for training and mentorship. Importantly, the alignment of policy and clinical goals are enablers of PD first program.

With more clinical and basic science research, outcome studies, and through better education and training, together with the implementation of global PD guidelines for enhancing care of PD patients, it is likely that PD patient outcomes will be improved and access to PD therapy will gradually be increased.





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