【Symposium 5-4】

Impacts of COVID-19 Infection on End-stage Kidney Disease Survival

COVID-19 感染對末期腎臟病存活的衝擊

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From 2019 to 2022, Taiwan faced unprecedented challenges to population health caused by COVID-19 infection. Based on the Worldometer report, the COVID-19 endemic has resulted in at least 10.2 million people being infected, and 19 thousand people directly died by infection complications at the end of November 2023. Patients with end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) require dialysis in one center and have been considered a vulnerable population for infectious disease infection, causing severe prognosis. Re-inspecting what we did and consequent outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic may strengthen the healthcare system's capacity against the next wave of infectious disease threats. This speech mainly summarizes the significant events of the COVID-19 epidemic in Taiwan and the Taiwan Society Nephrology plan for the endemic. Finally, we quantified the excessive deaths in ESKD during the COVID-19 endemic May 2021 wave by comparing it with the weekly average of deaths in the previous three years. In addition, we also quantified the impacts of different patient characteristics such as age (0-64, 65-74, 75-84, and ≥85), sex (male and female), diabetes mellitus (with and without), and modality (hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis). The review and quantification suggest that the Taiwan Renal Data System could play additional roles in routine infectious disease detection (burdens and vaccination), vulnerable population identification, and remote care development to help establish one resilient, equitable, and sustainable care system.

Keywords: end-stage kidney disease, COVID-19, dialysis, survival

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