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European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplant Association

Peritoneal Ultrafiltration Effective in End-Stage Chronic Heart Disease

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Patients with End stage chronic heart disease suffer a lot. Characteristic are fluid retention, fatigue and shortness of breath. In addition to these well-known symptoms they often develop renal failure as well. This co-occurrence of heart and kidney diseases has been described as cardiorenal syndrome (CRS). Patients with advanced chronic heart disease and CRS have a poor outcome (1-year-mortality rate of up to 77%), and a poor quality of life due to hospitalizations and low functional status.

A study that has been published in the Clinical Kidney Journal (ckj) analyzed the effect of peritoneal ultrafiltration in 39 patients. All-cause hospitalization was the primary endpoint, the secondary endpoints included (among others) mortality, volume overload, mental health and quality of life or NYHA functional class.

Peritoneal ultrafiltration significantly improved volume overload, NHYA functional class and mental health and reduced all-cause hospitalization days by 50%, although there was no significant difference in mortality. "Further randomized trials are needed, but according to this study peritoneal ultrafiltration improves the clinical condition of these very ill patients and adds to their quality of life" comments Prof. Alberto Ortiz, ckj's editor-in-chief.

Interested to read the full paper? Just send a copy of your press card to press@era-edta.org and ask for the pdf.

About ERA-EDTA

With more than 7,000 members, the ERA-EDTA ("European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplant Association") is one of the biggest nephrology associations worldwide and one of the most important and prestigious European Medical Associations. It supports basic and clinical research in the fields of clinical nephrology, dialysis, renal transplantation and related subjects. The ERA-EDTA supports a number of studies as well as research groups and has founded a special "Fellowship Programme" for young investigators as well as grant programmes. In order to involve young nephrologists in all activities of the ERA-EDTA the Council decided to create a Young Nephrologists' Platform (YNP). Besides, it has established



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various research networks and different working groups to promote the collaboration of nephrologists with other medical disciplines (e.g. cardiology, immunology). Furthermore, a "European Renal Best Practice" (ERBP) advisory board has been established by the ERA-EDTA to draw up and publish guidelines and position statements. Another important goal of the ERA-EDTA is education: several series of CME-courses as well as the annual congress offer an attractive scientific programme to cover the need of continuous medical education for doctors working in the fields of nephrology, dialysis and transplantation. The association's journals, NDT (Nephrology, Dialysis, Transplantation) and ckj (Clinical Kidney Journal), are currently the leading nephrology journals in Europe. The ERA-EDTA Registry is a large epidemiologic database comparing countries by assessing nephrology practice throughout Europe. Finally, ERA-EDTA is member of the European Kidney Health Alliance (EKHA), a consortium of renal societies that actively interacts with the European Parliament. For more information please visit www.era-edta.org