



Leading European Nephrology

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European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplant Association

Strategies on How to Ensure Affordable, High-Quality Renal Replacement Therapy (RRT) in the Future

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The prevalence of chronic kidney disease is still increasing. The reasons are manifold: people are becoming older, and loss of renal function is also a symptom of old age. Yet demographic trends alone do not explain the upward trend in chronic kidney disease (CKD); other common causes of CKD are diabetes mellitus, hypertension, smoking, and obesity – and it is known that the prevalence of these conditions is still rising. Therefore experts predict that we now only see the tip of the iceberg and that the number of people with limited kidney function will significantly increase in the next decades.

Of course, this is also a big challenge for the healthcare economy. Renal replacement therapy is life-saving, but being a treatment of a chronic disease, it is considerably expensive: the annual costs for a dialysis patient in Europe are estimated at approx. EUR 80,000.

“In view of the scenario that the number of patients with end stage renal disease will rise, we have to ensure that we can still offer access to high-quality care without incurring into astronomical costs for the European health systems”, explains Prof. Em. Raymond Vanholder, EKHA Chairman and Past-President of the ERA-EDTA. To this purpose Vanholder and his Belgium colleagues have developed strategies on how to assist as many patients as possible while keeping the expenses reasonable. This package of measures, which involves among others the strengthening of prevention, home dialysis and transplantation, has been published in NDT today.

“European nephrology is providing best standard of care, but we also have to think about how to be able to maintain this high quality standard also in the future. The paper of Vanholder et al. is groundbreaking and sets the course for the future – therefore I hope that it will be appreciated both by policy-makers as well as the general public” comments Prof. Carmine Zoccali, NDT Editor-in-Chief.

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



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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 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