



Leading European Nephrology

NEWS

European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplant Association

EURODOPPS Publication shows:

Reaching guideline targets is not a matter of healthcare expenditure and nephrologist workforce!

July 7, 2017

Global clinical practice guidelines have been developed and implemented with a view to improving patient care and outcomes. In the field of chronic kidney disease, special focus is laid on blood pressure control, Hb levels, lipid levels and maintaining the homeostasis of the mineral metabolism of the patients.

A large, representative population of EURODOPPS HD patients in seven European countries was analyzed and the attainment of the targets set in international guidelines on hypertension, anaemia, dyslipidaemia, metabolic acidosis and CKD-MBD published during DOPPS phase 4 (2009-2011) were examined. The study has now been published in NDT, one of the most important nephrology journals worldwide, and the authors sought to answer the question, if the targets set out in guidelines are attained, if there are inter-country differences and whether they are related to disparities in national healthcare expenditures (as a percentage of gross domestic product) and/or the nephrologist workforce per capita.

All in all, the attainment of the targets set in international guidelines was far from complete; only 34.1% of patients attained their target blood pressure and 31.2% attained their target haemoglobin levels. Many inter-country differences were seen concerning the levels of guideline uptake/application and the use of pharmacological agents, but the levels of national healthcare expenditures and nephrologist workforce were not correlated with the percentage of patients on target for $\geq 50\%$ of the studied variables.

“It is surprising that the attainment of targets recommended in important guidelines is still far from complete in HD patients throughout Europe”, explains Professor Denis Fouque, Lyon/France, editor-in-chief of NDT, the journal in which this important study has been published. “The study shows that this is not related to healthcare expenditures and nephrologist workforce. Therefore, one can conclude that educational programs like the ones the ERA-EDTA offers are still of need!”



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[1] Liabeuf S, Van Stralen KJ, Caskey F et al. Attainment of guideline targets in EURODOPPS haemodialysis patients: are differences related to a country's healthcare expenditure and nephrologist workforce? *Nephrol Dial Transplant*. 2017 Jan 5. pii: gfw409. doi: 10.1093/ndt/gfw409. [Epub ahead of print]

About EURODOPPS

The EURODOPPS is a collaborative venture between ERA-EDTA and Arbor Research Collaborative for Health. Among the aims of the project are to support European investigators to analyze epidemiological data provided by DOPPS study on patients receiving hemodialysis in seven European countries (Germany, Italy, France, United Kingdom, Belgium, Spain, and Sweden) included in the study, and to address scientific and policy-related questions. Moreover, ERA-EDTA largely supported the collection of the data in different new DOPPS waves to update the follow-ups.

About ERA-EDTA

With almost 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. It also 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 ERA-EDTA has the Young Nephrologists' Platform (YNP), a very active committee whose board includes members who are 40 years old or younger. Besides, it has established various 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 was 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; furthermore NDT-Educational is the online educational journal, open for free to all uses, of the Society as well as the very important and useful feature of NDT-Educational "Literature Review". The ERA-EDTA Registry is a large epidemiologic database comparing countries by assessing nephrology practice throughout Europe. ENP, the European Nephrology Portal, is the latest new initiative of ERA-EDTA: here all those interested in the activities of the Society can find everything that is done, all in one place! Finally, ERA-EDTA is member of the European Kidney Health Alliance (EKHA), a consortium of patients, nurses, foundations all related to renal issues that actively interacts with the European Parliament. For more information please visit www.era-edta.org