Mrs V N (the first patient to use single needle dialysis at home) describes her experience with dialysis.

"By June, 1971, I was very much in need of dialysis treatments. I began Home Dialysis Training at the University of Utah Medical Center.

"I was told that the treatments would take six hours each time, and I would have to have them three times a week. I had had a fistula put in my arm a month before starting, so I knew I would have needles stuck in my arm each time.

"At first my husband had quite a problem putting the needles in my arm. In fact, the second and third treatment days at home he was unsuccessful after five or six attempts, which made both of us increasingly nervous about it. I then had the next two treatments in the hospital. I felt strongly that I needed a shunt to avoid the needle problem, because I was becoming very needle-shy. At the last moment before making a definite decision, I decided we would try again at home with the fistula. I appreciated very much the advantages of the fistula over the shunt.

"We got along better with the sticking, but for a while it took an hour or two to get two good 'sticks', with the waiting for each hole to stop bleeding. After a few weeks, Mr van Dura phoned and asked if we'd like to try the single needle machine that Dr Kopp had developed. We were shown how to use it: my husband is an engineer so he understood it readily after the explanation, showing the equipment we'd be using; so we didn't need to be trained further.

"We have been so delighted with the Single Needle Machine.

"My husband has become quite adept at putting the needle in, and my vein has grown larger as well, so he almost always has a good 'stick' the first time. He can now get the needle in and get me hooked up to the lines of the machine in around fifteen minutes — as opposed to an hour or two before — so of course this is so much easier on both of us. If on occasion he misses on the first time, then he's almost certain to get it on the second attempt,
and then we're ready for the machine. But of course, with two needles, the attempts are doubled. I'm still somewhat needle-shy, so it means a lot to me not to be put through more than necessary. Also, fewer needles is much easier on the vein ....

"I am so grateful for the kidney machine for what it is doing for me ..."

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This work is supported in part by USPHS Grant FR0064 NIH71-2487

REFERENCE

Kopp, K. F., Gutch, C. F. and Kolff, W. J. (1972) Transactions, American Society for Artificial Internal Organs, 18, 75
Figure 2. Pressure Monitor for Single needle dialysis. Unipuncture Control (Manufacturer: Vital Assist Inc., 30 Kensington Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115)

Figure 3. Tubing clamps – solenoid operated – for single needle dialysis
Figure 4. The single needle method greatly simplifies fistula dialysis for small women with small fistulae

Figure 5. Single needle dialysis on a heavily scarred arm