

A) COMENTARIOS A ARTÍCULOS PUBLICADOS

Comment on "Peritoneal dialysis- related peritonitis: twenty-seven years of experience in a Colombian medical center"

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Dear Editor,

We read with great interest the article by Nieto-Rios et al. that was recently published in NEFROLOGIA.¹ In this study, the authors described the rates of continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) related peritonitis in a cohort of patients followed for 27 years in their center. They observed a steady rate of peritonitis throughout the three decades reviewed, despite the improvements of peritoneal dialysis techniques. Authors speculated that after the change in the social security system in the early 1990s in their country, more patients with low socioeconomic levels and illiteracy had access to CAPD which influence the rate of peritonitis.

We wanted to contribute our data about the effect of education level on peritonitis risk in peritoneal dialysis patients. We conducted a single center

study to investigate the risk factors for development of peritonitis in 171 peritoneal dialysis patients within two years period. Seventy-nine patients (46.2%) had suffered peritonitis during follow-up period. One-hundred three peritonitis episodes were observed in these 79 patients. Sixty-one patients had one, 12 patients had two and 6 patients had three peritonitis episodes during the follow up period. Peritonitis rate was 1 in 31.4 patient months. Demographic characteristics of the patients including age, gender and previous hemodialysis history were not different between patients with and without peritonitis. Hemoglobin levels had also no effect on peritonitis risk. However diabetes was more prevalent in patients that suffered peritonitis compared to patients that did not suffered peritonitis (32.9% vs. 16.3%, respectively, $p=0.01$) and mean serum albumin level was lower in patients with peritonitis (3.1 ± 4.8 vs. 3.2 ± 4.1 g/dL, $p=0.04$). Duration of peritoneal dialysis was longer in patients that suffered peritonitis (20.6 ± 12.3 months vs. 17.5 ± 10.1 months, $p=0.01$). Literacy levels were similar between two groups (Table 1).

Although low education level had been shown as a risk factor for peritonitis in some previous studies,²⁻⁴ we did not observe an effect of literacy level on peritonitis risk. This discrepancy may be explained by the fact that support from well-educated familial members of patients with low educational status

may help to decrease the peritonitis risk. We believe that low education level should not be a contraindication for peritoneal dialysis provided that well educated family members assist in performing the dialysis procedure.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest related to the contents of this article.

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Table 1. Literacy Levels in Patients that Suffered and did not Suffer Peritonitis

Literacy level	Patients that suffered peritonitis (n=79)	Patients that did not suffer peritonitis (n=92)	P value
Illiterate	14 (17.7%)	20 (21.7%)	>0.05
Elementary school	27 (34.2%)	33 (35.9%)	>0.05
High school	28 (35.4%)	28 (30.4%)	>0.05
University	10 (12.7%)	11 (12.0%)	>0.05