Use of Parenteral Supplements in Dialysis Patients

E.

Emil

Paskalev

Medical University, Alexander's Hospital, Sofia, Bulgaria

Dr. Emil Paskalev, Medical University, Alexander's Hospital, 1 St. Georgi Sofiiski Str., BG-1431 Sofia (Bulgaria)

Dear Sir,

As a therapeutic method hemodialysis is lifesaving in cases of disturbed renal functions. Correct nutrition during periodic he-modalytic treatment (PHT) is the basic optimizing factor of primary importance for the total clinical status. A number of studies show that nearly 1/3 of the patients under PHT demonstrate signs of poor nutrition. Our study proves the importance of two basic factors: infections and affected vessel approach for hemodialysis application. If these factors are present, over 65% of the cases develop malnutrition. So prognosticated, it may be prevented by anticipating parenteral nutrition.

We tested 50 patients with malnutrition due to infections and affected vessel approach for hemodialysis application. Group A included 30 patients untreated by anticipating parenteral nutrition. Group B included 20 patients, who received anticipating parenteral nutrition by means of infusion of aminoacid solution (Aminosteril KE Nephro, 250 ml, Fresenius AG, Bad Hamburg). Basic laboratory indices of the nutrition status were studied.

In group A, 22 of the cases of malnutrition (70.3%) were due to infection and the other 8 cases (29.7%) to affected vessel approach. In group B, 16 of the cases (80%) were due to infection and the other 4 cases (20%) to affected vessel" approach. In group A, 7 of the patients (23.3%) were without malnutrition, 14 patients (46.7%) had a mild, 7 patients (23.3%) an intermediate and 2 patients (6.7%) had a severe form of malnutrition. They were treated by means of oral and parenteral additional nutrition with recovery for a period of 2-4 months. In group B, 10 patients (50%) had preserved nutrition status, 7 patients (35%) had a decrease in serum and total albumen, but within the norm, 2 patients (10%) had a mild and 1 patient (5%) had a severe form of malnutrition.

It could be concluded that anticipating parenteral nutrition, performed in cases of etiologic factor of malnutrition, prevents its development or the malnutrition occurs in a mild form. Infections constitute a stronger etiologic factor of malnutrition.

If clinically manifested malnutrition occurs, treatment for a longer period is necessary.

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KARGEH

E-Mail karger@karger.ch Fax+ 41 61 306 12 34

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