Not only are dialysis access creation and maintenance prone to complications, but patients suffering from end-stage renal disease and its comorbidities generally have a high risk of adverse events during their continuous treatment. Preventive strategies are key to avoid harm and to improve the outcome of the treatment of the growing number of patients with chronic kidney failure, especially as doctors and nurses are not always aware of the consequences of unsafe behavior. This publication is intended for health care professionals – nurses as well as doctors – and aims to raise the awareness of patient safety aspects, combining medical education with evidence-based medicine. After a general overview of the topic, an international panel of authors provides a diversified insight into important concepts and technical tricks essential to create and maintain a functional dialysis access.

Contents

• Foreword: Vincent, C.
• Preface: Widmer, M.K.; Malik, J.

The Topic

• Patient Safety: What Is It All about? Schwappach, D.

Preventive Treatment Strategies

• Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease: Safety Aspects in the Preoperative Management: Malovrh, M.
• What Every Doctor Should Know about Drug Safety in Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease: Paparella, M.; Martina, V.; Rizzo, M.A.; Gallieni, M.
• Cardiac Safety in Vascular Access Surgery and Maintenance: Malik, J.; Kudlicka, J.; Tesar, V.; Linhart, A.

Dialysis Access Creation

• Simulation in Vascular Access Surgery: Widmer, M.K.; Davidson, I.; Widmer, L.W.; Schmidli, J.; Wyss, T.R.
• Team Training to Establish a Safety Culture in Dialysis Access Surgery: Davidson, I.; Widmer, M.K.; Nolen, B.; Ross, J.; Slakey, D.P.
• How to Perform Safe Anesthesia in Patients with End-Stage Renal Disease: Seidl, C.; Eberle, B.
• Careful and Safe Vascular Access Creation: Wyss, T.R.; Widmer, M.K.
• Improving Patient Safety in Vascular Access: A Role for Individualization and Patient Preferences: Roy-Chaudhury, P.; Verma, A.

Dealing with Complications of Vascular Access

• How to Prolong the Patency of Vascular Access: Glazer, S.; Saint, L.; Shenoy, S.
• Safety Issues in Surgical and Endovascular Techniques to Rescue Failing or Failed Arteriovenous Fistulas and Arteriovenous Grafts: Lazarides, M.; Georgiadis, G.; Argiriou, C.
• Vascular Access-Induced Hand Ischemia: Risks and Safe Management: Sessa, C.; De Lambert, A.; Pirvu, A.; Palacin, P.; Pichot, O.

Catheters as Dialysis Access

• Patient Safety in Peritoneal Dialysis: Slakey, D.P.; Davidson, I.
• Safety Aspects in Patients on Hemodialysis with Catheters: Polakovic, V.; Lopot, F.
• Nosocomial Infections in Dialysis Access: Schweiger, A.; Trevino, S.; Marschall, J.

Dialysis Access Care

• How to Improve Vascular Access Care: van Loon, M.
• The Patient’s Role in Patient Safety and the Importance of a Dedicated Vascular Access Team: Shemesh, D.; Olsha, O.; Goldin, I.; Danin, S.

Outlook


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(Continued on next page)
(Continued)

**Peritoneal Dialysis**

George L. Bakris, Chicago, Ill.  Piergiorgio Messa, Milan
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Jordi Bover, Barcelona  K. Shivanand Nayak, Hyderabad
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Aims and Scope
Practical information on hemodialysis, hemofiltration, peritoneal dialysis and plasma filtration is featured in this journal. Recognizing the critical importance of equipment and procedures, particular emphasis has been placed on reports, drawn from a wide range of fields, describing technical advances and improvements in methodology. Papers reflect the search for cost-effective solutions which increase not only patient survival but also comfort through prevention or correction of undesirable effects. Advances in vascular access and blood anticoagulation, problems associated with exposure of blood to foreign surfaces and acute-care nephrology, including continuous therapies, also receive attention. Nephrologists, internists, intensivists and hospital staff involved in dialysis, apheresis and immunoadsorption for acute and chronic solid organ failure will find this journal useful and informative.

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Contents

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Selected contributions


- Genetics and Epigenetics of Diabetic Nephropathy: Liu, R.; Lee, K.; He, J.C.


- Peritoneal Dialysis in Asia: Kwong, V.W.-K.; Li, P.K.-T.

- Peritoneal Dialysis in Western Countries: Struijk, D.G.; Xiao, H.; Hu, P.; Shi, Y.; Zhuang, S.

- Overview of the Pathogenesis of ANCA-Associated Vasculitis: Liu, Y.; Tang, S.C.W.


- Autophagy in Chronic Kidney Diseases: Liu, N.; Shi, Y.; Zhuang, S.
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Contents

- Preface: Ding, X.; Ronco, C.
- AKI Characteristics and Epidemiology
  - Acute Kidney Injury Epidemiology: From Recognition to Intervention: Wang, Y.; Fang, Y.; Teng, J.; Ding, X.
  - Acute Kidney Injury Prevention: Chopra, T.A.; Brooks, C.H.; Okusa, M.D.
  - Renal Recovery after Acute Kidney Injury: Macedo, E.; Mehta, R.L.
- AKI Pathophysiology and Diagnosis
  - Pathophysiology of Septic Acute Kidney Injury: Mårtensson, J.; Bellomo, R.
  - Biomarkers for Diagnosis, Prognosis and Intervention in Acute Kidney Injury: Fuhrman, D.Y.; Kellum, J.A.
  - Electronic Data Systems and Acute Kidney Injury: Cheungpasitporn, W.; Kashani, K.

- AKI Management
  - Fluid Management in Acute Kidney Injury: Chuang, C.-L.
  - Multidimensional Approach to Adequacy of Renal Replacement Therapy in Acute Kidney Injury: Villa, G.; Ricci, Z.; Romagnoli, S.; Ronco, C.
  - Timing of Renal Replacement Therapy in Acute Kidney Injury: Ostermann, M.; Wald, R.; Bagshaw, S.M.
  - Pediatric Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy: Ricci, Z.; Goldstein, S.L.
  - Management of Cardiac Surgery-Associated Acute Kidney Injury: Xu, J.; Jiang, W.; Fang, Y.; Teng, J.; Ding, X.

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In-Depth Review

279 Prostacyclin as an Anticoagulant for Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy in Children

Original Papers

290 Procalcitonin and Interleukin-6 Levels: Are They Useful Biomarkers in Cardiac Surgery Patients?
Clementi, A. (Vicenza/Agrigento); Brocca, A. (Vicenza/Padova); Virzì, G.M.; de Cal, M.; Giavarina, D.; Carta, M.; Muciño-Bermejo, M.-J.; Hinna Danesi, T.; Salvador, L.; Ronco, C. (Vicenza)

298 Perioperative Hemodynamic Instability and Fluid Overload Are Associated with Increasing Acute Kidney Injury Severity and Worse Outcome after Cardiac Surgery
Haase-Fielitz, A.; Haase, M. (Brandenburg/Magdeburg); Bellomo, R.; Calzavacca, C. (Melbourne, VIC); Spura, A.; Baraki, H.; Kutschka, I.; Albert, C. (Magdeburg)

309 Vascular Refilling Is Not Reduced in Dialysis Sessions with Morbid Events
Kron, S. (Berlin); Schnedlitz, D. (Graz); Leimbach, T.; Aign, S.; Kron, J. (Berlin)

315 The Different Impacts on the Long-Term Survival of Tunneled Internal Jugular Hemodialysis Catheters Based on Tip Position and Laterality
Premuzic, V.; Perkov, D.; Smiljanic, R.; Brunetta Gavranic, B.; Jelakovic, B. (Zagreb)

321 Catheter Failure and Mortality in Hemodialysis Patients with Tunneled Cuffed Venous Catheters in a Single Center
Shi, M.; Cui, T.; Ma, L.; Zhou, L.; Fu, P. (Chengdu)

338 Evaluation of the Impact of a New Synthetic Vitamin E-Bonded Membrane on the Hypo-Responsiveness to the Erythropoietin Therapy in Hemodialysis Patients: A Multicenter Study
Locatelli, F.; Andrulli, S.; Viganò, S.M. (Lecco); Concetti, M. (Fermo); Urbini, S. (Forlì); Giacchino, F. (Ivrea); Broccoli, R. (Esine); Aucella, F. (San Giovanni Rotondo); Costi, M. (Sassari); Conti, P. (Grosseto); Fattori, L. (Senigallia); Punzo, G. (Roma); Angelini, D. (Lucca); Peruzzini, M. (Ancona); Di Giulio, S. (Roma); Piroddi, M.; Galli, F. (Perugia); Del Vecchio, L. (Lecco)

World Kidney Day 2017: Editorial

346 Obesity and Kidney Disease: Hidden Consequences of the Epidemic
Kovesdy, C.P. (Memphis, TN); Furth, S.L. (Philadelphia, PA); Zoccali, C. (Reggio Calabria)

Abstracts

327 Blood Purification Management Branch of Chinese Hospital Society
August 11–14, 2016, Nanjing, China
Guest Editor: Tao Wei (Beijing)
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