When to Start Dialysis?

Build awareness for your patient.
Alleviate anxiety. Encourage discussion with your patient to help them be a partner in their care. Be open about their prognosis. Rather than emphasize the “big D”, explain the role of the clinic and the team. Understand their anxieties and goals.

Is it the right time to talk about dialysis options?
Depending on your clinic and your patient’s rate of progression, you should discuss treatment options for chronic kidney disease when your patient’s eGFR levels are between 15 - 25ml/min/1.73m².

It’s not just about numbers anymore.
In patients with a declining eGFR, and no uremic symptoms, it’s okay to wait. Signs and symptoms of uremia should be used to guide the initiation of dialysis. See the clinical practice guidelines in the February 2014 issue of CMAJ.

MAINTAINING A DIALOGUE
Symptoms are one thing, consider also how your patient feels — emotionally. Complement your conversation with high quality patient education to increase their self-efficacy.

VISIT INFORMEDKIDNEYCARE.CA TO GET RELEVANT TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO AID AND FACILITATE YOUR PATIENT’S DECISION-MAKING JOURNEY.

REVIEWSING OPTIONS & AIDING DECISION-MAKING
Consider all options with your patient and their loved ones.

Conservative  | Dialysis  | Transplant

Dialysis  | Home  | In-Centre

Home HD  | PD

Survival: Early-start vs. Intent-to-defer dialysis

In a randomized trial, investigators noted no difference in mortality, quality of life or hospitalization with a 6-month delay in initiation. Adapted from NEJM, Cooper BA, Branley P, et al. A Randomized, Controlled Trial of Early vs Late Initiation of Dialysis, Vol. 363 No. 7 Page No 616. Copyright © 2010 Massachusetts Medical Society.

The CSN recommends an ‘intent-to-defer’ strategy, where patients with an eGFR <15ml/min/1.73m² are closely monitored by their CKD team.

Initiate dialysis with the emergence of clinical indications OR an eGFR ≤6ml/min/1.73m², whichever should occur first.

CANN-NET is supported by:

Canadian Society of Nephrology/
Société Canadienne De Néphrologie

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

The Foundation of Kidney Care

INFORMED KIDNEY CARE
This information package is provided free of charge by The Kidney Foundation of Canada

For more information and resources: informedkidneycare.ca