

What we have done for CKD management?

--- Taiwan's perspective

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Chronic kidney disease (CKD) has been recognized a global burden, and it needs a summative task force to tackle. Here we review the unremitting efforts for CKD management in Taiwan.

1. Status quo. Taiwan has the highest incidence and prevalence rate of treated end-stage renal disease (ESRD) in the world, and is definitely a huge financial burden. Almost 100% mandatory medical insurance 、aging populations 、low transplantation rate 、and good survival in dialysis patients might partly explain. However, we have to pay great attention to the drug-related kidney damages.
2. Dialysis surveillance and registry – the role of a society. Taiwan Society of Nephrology (TSN) was founded in 1983, and it started to collect the dialysis patients' data through the timely scheduled visits to dialysis institutes. But not until 2014 could TSN publish the first Annual Report of Kidney Disease in Taiwan. It's also TSN's obligation to educate and promote the nation-wide utilization of the automatic eGFR calculation with each creatinine test in every institutes.
3. Pre-ESRD and early CKD care. Government founded the Kidney Health Promotion Organization in 2003, followed by reimbursed Pre-ESRD Care Program (for stage 3b~5) in 2007, and also reimbursed Early CKD Care Program (stage 1~3a) in 2011. In Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital, we started to organize our CKD care team as early as in June, 2003. With patient accumulation and good management, we are able to understand our patients more in detail, and have fruitful scientific publications. Thanks to the integrated pre-ESRD CKD care, we are able to slow down the CKD progression rate 、improve their survival 、reduce the individual cost 、etc. For early CKD patients, the hypertension control 、glycemic control 、lipid management 、and smoking cessation rate can be improved.

4. Transplantation. Taiwan has low transplantation rate among countries. Organ availability is always lagging behind the ever-growing waiting list. Cultural belief to resist organ donation and lack of incentives might be the causes.
5. Kidney Biopsy registration. TSN started to promote kidney pathology registry since 2013, relatively late. A successful registration provides opportunities of detailed analysis and researches of kidney diseases for each country.