



Procedure Information Sheet

Introduction

Haemodialysis is a process of cleaning the blood outside the body by a filtering machine (dialyser), removing accumulated waste products and water from blood to restore body's haemostatic balance. It is a substitute for the excretory function of the kidneys but does not replace the endocrine and metabolic functions. It is mainly used in patients with end-stage kidney failure or acutely ill patients with significant impaired kidney function. Haemodialysis can be temporary or permanent depending on the body conditions and the recovery of kidney function. It can be a life long procedure for chronic kidney failure.

Indication

- In acute kidney failure, haemodiafiltration is a procedure to remove toxic substances and regulate body fluid balance when the kidneys are temporary unable to do so, to allow the kidneys to rest or recover.
- In chronic kidney failure and end stage kidney disease, the haemodiafiltration is used to substitute for the absent kidney function indefinitely.
- In life-threatening situation, haemodiafiltration is used to quickly remove drug, toxic substance or large volume of fluid from the body.

The Operation / Procedure

1. A catheter is inserted into the large vein in the neck, chest or femoral area.
2. The 'dirty' blood is pumped out of the body by a machine and flow across the membrane of the artificial kidney by diffusion and ultrafiltration.
3. Toxins and water are removed from the blood to the dialysate.
4. The 'cleaned' blood is then pumped back to the body.
5. Haemodialysis is an intermittent procedure. Each session lasts for about four to six hours. The treatment may be required two or three times per week.

Before the Operation / Procedure

Fully explain the procedure and obtain patient's written consent if condition allows.

After the Operation / Procedure

1. After the dialysis system is established, confine to bed and avoid excessive movement.
2. Extra care should be taken to prevent disconnection or pulling out of tubing.
3. Closely monitoring of body vital functions and regular blood test is required throughout the procedure to evaluate the treatment effects.

Risk and Complication

1. Bleeding from the catheter site.
2. Systemic or catheter site infection.
3. Low blood pressure.
4. Low body temperature & chills during the procedure.
5. Headache.
6. Muscle clamp.

Disclaimer

This leaflet only provides general information pertaining to this operation / procedure. While common risks and complications are described, the list is not exhaustive, and the degree of risk could also vary between patients. Please contact your doctor for detailed information and specific enquiry.

Reference

Ellis P. (2018). Assessing different approaches to haemodialysis and haemodiafiltration. *Journal of Kidney Care*, 3(1), 30-34.

Patient's Label Patient Name: _____ Hospital No: _____ Episode No: _____

Patient's Signature: _____ Date: _____