

Handbook Peritoneal Dialysis (PD)

In the autumn of 2008 activities started by Maria de La Cruz Casal Garcia¹ and Aase Riemann² to publish the EDTNA/ERCA “PD-handbook”, a practical guide about peritoneal dialysis that targets doctors and nurses starting to work in the field of peritoneal dialysis.

The overall aim of the handbook is to teach the reader the theory and practical tasks of peritoneal dialysis. Peritoneal dialysis is a home-therapy which demands specific knowledge and self-management-skills of the patient and his spouses. Therefore another important aim is to inform caregivers about how to support and educate patients to deal with this therapy.

In some European countries peritoneal dialysis is not such a common therapy as hemodialysis. The reason for this is not a difference in quality of the treatment compared to hemodialysis but has more to do with the economic structures of the healthcare system of a country. In countries with public dialysis providers one sees more peritoneal dialysis treatment than in countries with private providers with units owned by physicians or by dialysis chains³. The education of physicians (and nurses) in peritoneal dialysis, and the quality of research on peritoneal dialysis play also an important role in the growth of peritoneal dialysis.⁴

The possibilities patients have to be educated and informed about dialysis treatments play an important role in launching peritoneal dialysis. Research indicates that in countries where patients without contraindications for PD (60-78 % in recent studies) have optimal possibilities to get proper education, information and a free choice, about 30-50 % will choose peritoneal dialysis⁵

The PD-handbook.

Well-known and experienced nephrologists, PD-nurses, dieticians and social workers from different European countries have all accepted to contribute to the handbook and to share their long and excellent experience in peritoneal dialysis. Reading the chapters of the book you will sense the enthusiasm of the writers to share with colleagues all over the world their belief in a good treatment, their love for their work and their eagerness to look for continuing improvement.

The handbook contains the following issues: development of peritoneal dialysis as a treatment, the basics of peritoneal dialysis, complications and treatment, education of the peritoneal-patient and daily care with a special chapter about classifications of exit-sites. Also you will read chapters about the psychosocial aspects of patients with peritoneal dialysis and dietary modifications, ending with special issues such as peritoneal dialysis for the elderly, pediatrics and transplantation.

The authors are living and working in different European countries. In the handbook you will read chapters written by the following authors: Nephrologists: Ray Krediet, Watske Smit Dick Struijk, (NL), Johan Povlsen (DK). Nurses: Eva Barbero, Tai Moo Ho Wong

(SP), Marianna Eleftheroudi (GR), Mona Clausen, Karin Lomholdt, Kirsten Holck, (DK), Ronald Visser (NL), Zehra Aydin, (TU) and Ray Trewitt (UK).

Teachers: Nicky Thomas, social workers: Nurith Blumental (Israel) and as dietiticians: Liana Poulia (UK) and Deepa Kariyawasam (GR)

Reviewers of the handbook belong to a multidisciplinary Dutch group of people, highly experienced in PD.

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³ Mehrotra R., Khawar O., Duang U. et al (2009). Ownership Patterns of Dialysis Units and peritoneal dialysis in the United States, utilization and outcomes. *American Journal Kidney Diseases*, april 7

⁴ Mehrotra R., (2007). Changing patterns of peritoneal dialysis utilization in the United States. *Peritoneal Dialysis International*, 27 suppl 2: S 51-2

⁵ Mendelssohn D.C. (2009) Increasing peritoneal dialysis utilization: Should suitable patients be forced? In *Peritoneal Dialysis International*, vol. 29, nr.2, 144-147