

Decrease of reported symptoms after switching from conventional high-flux haemodialysis to online haemodiafiltration

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Introduction

Improvements in patient outcomes after switching from high-flux haemodialysis (HFHD) to haemodiafiltration (HDF) with focus on medical parameters and specific symptoms have already been published.

We analysed the number of reported treatment-related symptoms and events after switching from HFHD to online haemodiafiltration (OL-HDF). As the reporting procedure for treatment-related symptoms and events was implemented in country clinic network, treatment variances could be compared over a eight-months period (four months` HFHD; four months` OL-HDF).

Objective

To compare the reported intra-dialytic symptoms and events associated with treatment.

Methods

The total number of reported events was extracted from the reports for analysis: clotting, cramps, hypotension, dyspnoea, headache, and nausea. Moreover, we analysed the percentage of patients within a predefined target limits for over-hydration during the observation period. Data of nine dialysis clinics of a dialysis network in Bosnia and Herzegovina were collected from May to December 2017. Symptoms and events were documented for 943 patients with a total of 97,241 treatment sessions.

Results

The reported clotting events increased after switching to OL-HDF, but the number of other reported symptoms decreased except for nausea (Table 1).

The percentage of patients in the predefined over-hydration target increased after switching to OL-HDF (Figure 1).

Conclusions

There is sufficient evidence that OL-HDF is a superior therapy modality as compared to HFHD, including a better over-hydration control. This analysis confirmed that OL-HDF is well tolerated by patients. Fewer symptoms mean that nurses can focus more on monitoring, patient care, and education.

Total reported symptoms / events	HF HD	OL-HDF	Trend
Clotting	493	567	↑
Cramps	513	201	↓
Arrhythmia	35	47	↑
Hypertension (*definition changed during observation period)	6231	3038	↓*
Hypotension	1517	1286	↓
Abdominal Pain	174	90	↓
Dyspnea	104	50	↓
Headache	72	18	↓
Nausea	60	66	↑

Table I: Trend of reported symptoms after switching to OL-HDF

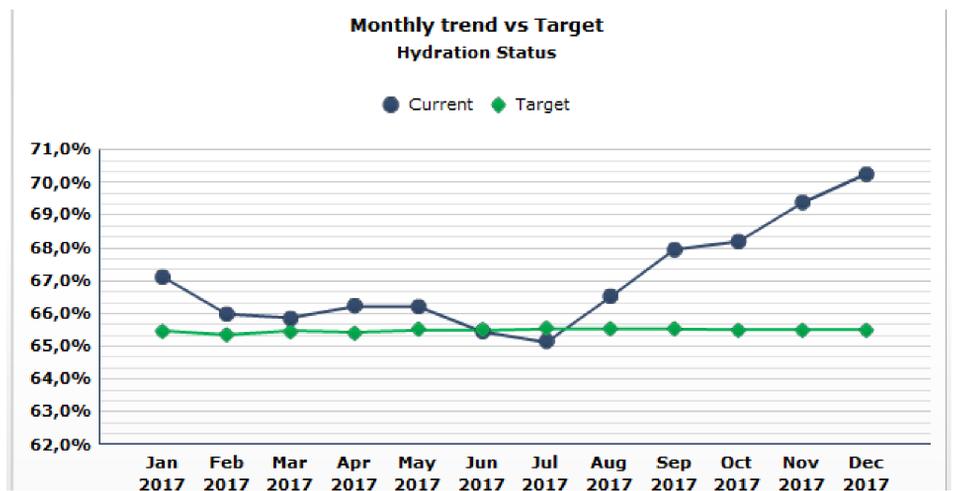


Figure 1: Hydration status improvement

Reference

Treatment tolerance and patient-reported outcomes favor online hemodiafiltration compared to high-flux hemodialysis in the elderly. Morena M. Et All. Kidney Int. 2017 Jun;91(6):1495-1509. doi: 10.1016/j.kint.2017.01.013. Epub 2017 Mar 18.