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Authors: Eric Andrew Finkelstein, Semra Ozdemir, Chetna Malhotra, Tazeen H. Jafar, Lina Choong Hui Lin, Sheryl Gan Shien Wen



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Understanding Factors That Influence the Demand for Dialysis among Elderly in a Multi-Ethnic Asian Society

RUNNING HEAD: Factors That Influence the Demand for Dialysis

Eric Andrew Finkelstein^{a,b*}, PhD, Semra Ozdemir^{a,b}, PhD, Chetna Malhotra^{a,b}, MD, Tazeen H. Jafar^b, MBBS, Lina Choong Hui Lin^c, MBBS, Sheryl Gan Shien Wen^c, MBBS

^a Lien Centre for Palliative Care, Duke-NUS Medical School Singapore

^b Health Services and Systems Research Programme, Duke-NUS Medical School Singapore

^c Department of Renal Medicine, Singapore General Hospital

Correspondence: Eric Andrew Finkelstein

Phone: +65 6516 2338

Fax: +65 6221 9716

Email: eric.finkelstein@duke-nus.edu.sg

Address: Lien Centre for Palliative Care, Duke-NUS Medical School Singapore, 8 College Road, 169857, Singapore

Highlights

- Awareness of conservative management as an option for elderly patients is low
- Caregivers appear to overestimate survival under dialysis
- Patients and caregivers defer to physician recommendations for treatment choice
- Subsidies on hemodialysis reduces demand for conservative management

Abstract:

Background: Despite literature suggesting conservative management (CM) is a viable option for elderly comorbid ESRD patients, the vast majority in Singapore receive dialysis. We hypothesized that the high demand for dialysis is driven by 1) lack of knowledge of CM and relative benefits of dialysis to CM, 2) adherence to physician recommendations which favour dialysis, and 3) high subsidies for haemodialysis (HD).

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