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POOR QUALITY OF LIFE MAY CONTRIBUTE TO KIDNEY DISEASE PATIENTS' HEALTH PROBLEMS

Future studies should assess whether improving quality of life can protect patients' health

Highlight

- In African American patients with chronic kidney disease, poor quality of life was linked with increased risks of disease progression and heart problems.

60 million people globally have chronic kidney disease.

Washington, DC (April 3, 2014) — Kidney disease patients with poor quality of life are at increased risk of experiencing progression of their disease and of developing heart problems, according to a study appearing in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* (JASN). The findings suggest that quality of life measurements may have important prognostic value in these individuals.

Approximately 60 million people globally have chronic kidney disease (CKD). Quality of life has been well-studied in patients with end-stage kidney disease, but not in patients with CKD who do not yet require dialysis. To gain a better understanding of quality of life among such patients, Anna Porter, MD (University of Illinois at Chicago) and her colleagues studied 1091 African Americans with hypertensive CKD enrolled in the African American Study of Kidney Disease and Hypertension Trial and Cohort Studies. The researchers assessed health-related quality of life, including mental and physical health, through surveys.

During approximately 10 years of follow-up, lower physical and mental health scores were linked with increased risks of experiencing cardiovascular events or dying from heart-related causes as well as with experiencing progression of CKD or dying from kidney-related causes.

“Quality of life is extremely important to patients and is impacted by kidney disease,” said Dr. Porter. “In order to better serve our patients, physicians need to gain a better understanding of the negative impact that kidney disease has on quality of life, and to recognize the association between quality of life and other outcomes.”

Study co-authors include Michael Fischer, MD, Xuelei Wang, Deborah Brooks, Marino Bruce, PhD, Jeanne Charleston, William Cleveland, MD, Donna Dowie, MD, Marquetta Faulkner, MD, Jennifer Gassman, PhD, Leena Hiremath, PhD, Cindy Kendrick, John W. Kusek, PhD, Keith C. Norris, MD, Denyse Thornley-Brown, MD, Tom Greene, PhD, and James Lash, MD.

Disclosures: Keith Norris has consulted with Amgen, Pfizer, Merck, King Pharmaceuticals and Abbott; received grants from NIH and King Pharmaceuticals; and received honoraria from Amgen. His co-authors reported no financial disclosures.

The article, entitled “Quality of Life and Outcomes in African Americans with CKD,” will appear online at <http://jasn.asnjournals.org/> on April 3, 2014.

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