STUDY REVEALS SUBSTANTIAL AND PERSISTENT GAPS IN QUALITY OF CARE FOR PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

Study points to need for significant improvements.

Highlights

- From 2006 to 2014, patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) had a high prevalence of uncontrolled hypertension that did not decrease over time.
- Use of specialized hypertension medications in patients with CKD did not increase over time.
- Statins are underused in CKD patients with respect to guideline recommendations.

Washington, DC (July 11, 2019) — A recent analysis found that U.S. patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) have a high prevalence of uncontrolled hypertension and diabetes, and a low use of statins that has not improved over time and is not concordant with guidelines. The findings appear in an upcoming issue of CJASN.

Managing CKD is complex and involves the use of multiple interventions to protect patients’ health and prevent kidney failure. These include making lifestyle changes and/or taking medications to control hypertension, high cholesterol, and diabetes.

To assess the quality of care that patients are receiving, Sri Lekha Tummalapalli, MD, MBA (University of California, San Francisco) and her colleagues performed a national study of visits to office-based ambulatory care practices for adults with CKD from the 2006 to 2014.

Among the major findings:

- Over the study period, there was no difference in the prevalence of uncontrolled hypertension (46% in 2006-2008 vs. 48% in 2012-2014).
- There was a high prevalence of uncontrolled diabetes in 2012-2014 (41%).
- The prevalence of hypertension medication use ranged from 45% in 2006-2008 to 36% in 2012-2014.
- Statin use to treat high cholesterol in patients with CKD who were 50 years or older was low and remained unchanged from 29% in 2006-2008 to 31% in 2012-2014.
“CKD, where kidney function is reduced or the kidney shows signs of damage, is a major public health problem. Controlling risk factors, such as high blood pressure and diabetes, and using evidence-based medications in patients with CKD is especially critical to decrease the risk of kidney failure. Our research shows how care can be improved for patients with CKD,” said Dr. Tummalapalli. “There is a national conversation happening right now about kidney disease. National professional organizations, government, and insurance are coalescing to improve care models for kidney disease. Preventing kidney failure and decreasing the risk of other complications, such as heart disease, starts at early stages of CKD. Our research highlights the current gaps in care.”

Study co-authors include Salomeh Keyhani, MD, MPH, and Neil R. Powe, MD, MPH, MBA.

Disclosures: The authors report no financial disclosures.


The content of this article does not reflect the views or opinions of The American Society of Nephrology (ASN). Responsibility for the information and views expressed therein lies entirely with the author(s). ASN does not offer medical advice. All content in ASN publications is for informational purposes only, and is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions, or adverse effects. This content should not be used during a medical emergency or for the diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Please consult your doctor or other qualified health care provider if you have any questions about a medical condition, or before taking any drug, changing your diet or commencing or discontinuing any course of treatment. Do not ignore or delay obtaining professional medical advice because of information accessed through ASN. Call 911 or your doctor for all medical emergencies.

Since 1966, ASN has been leading the fight to prevent, treat, and cure kidney diseases throughout the world by educating health professionals and scientists, advancing research and innovation, communicating new knowledge, and advocating for the highest quality care for patients. ASN has more than 20,000 members representing 131 countries. For more information, please visit www.asn-online.org or contact the society at 202-640-4660.

###

Tweet: Study reveals substantial and persistent gaps in quality of care for patients with chronic kidney disease.
@LTummalapalli
Facebook: A recent analysis found that U.S. patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) have a high prevalence of uncontrolled hypertension and diabetes, and a low use of statins that has not improved over time and is not concordant with guidelines. The findings appear in CJASN.

Media: Scott Maier
Senior Public Information Representative, Public Affairs
UCSF Strategic Communications & University Relations

University of California, San Francisco
3333 California Street, Suite 103, Box 0462 | San Francisco, CA 94118
tel: 415.476.3595 | mobile: 415.463.0110 | fax: 415.476.3541
scott.maier@ucsf.edu