

PRESS RELEASE

COVID vaccinations for dialysis patients to reduce risk of death, says health expert

(Hong Kong, 16 January 2023) – **The pandemic wave of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) Omicron variant affected all walks of life, but more so for vulnerable patient groups. A research team from The Chinese University of Hong Kong has collaborated with six renal centres in Hong Kong to study the impact of the fifth wave of novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on end-stage kidney disease patients and published their findings in the *Hong Kong Medical Journal*.**

To overcome the bias of under-reporting COVID-19 by infected persons, the study design focused on mortality of all patients undergoing haemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and after kidney transplant. Between 1 October 2021 and 30 April 2022, the six centres looked after 5514 patients: 1231 (22.3%) on haemodialysis, 2526 (45.8%) on peritoneal dialysis, and 1757 (31.9%) being kidney transplant recipients. A total of 90 patients from this cohort died of COVID-19; among them, over 60% were unvaccinated. The peritoneal dialysis and haemodialysis populations had similarly high mortality attributable to COVID-19, with 19.4 and 21.9 deaths per 1000 dialysis population, respectively. However, higher percentage of peritoneal dialysis patients who died of COVID-19 (73%) were unvaccinated.

The result highlighted the vulnerability of dialysis patients to COVID-19: about 2 out of 100 dialysis patients died of COVID-19 during the fifth wave in this study. The observation of lower vaccine coverage among death cases in peritoneal dialysis patients suggested that peritoneal dialysis patients in Hong Kong could have underestimated their infection risk, and hence have less vigilance and significantly lower vaccine uptake.

The lead author of the research team, Dr Kai-ming Chow, advises all dialysis patients with kidney failure to receive COVID-19 vaccine according to schedule. Given the immunocompromised state of dialysis patients, they are reminded to consider bivalent vaccine.

The article “Impact of COVID-19 on the mortality of dialysis patients and kidney transplant recipients during the Omicron fifth wave in Hong Kong” was published in the *Hong Kong Medical Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.12809/hkmj2210309>

新聞稿

新冠疫苗降低透析病人死亡風險 醫生促儘快接種

(香港, 2023 年 1 月 16 日) — 新型冠狀病毒變異病毒株亞系 **Omicron** 大流行影響全球人口, 而疫情對弱勢患者群組影響更甚。香港中文大學醫學院研究團隊與香港六所腎臟中心合作, 研究第五波新冠疫情對香港末期腎病患者的影響。有關研究已於《香港醫學雜誌》發表。

為免出現新冠患者漏報染疫的情況, 此項研究針對所有接受血液透析、腹膜透析和腎臟移植後患者的死亡率。2021 年 10 月 1 日至 2022 年 4 月 30 日期間, 這六個中心合共治療了 5514 名腎病患者, 當中 1231 名 (22.3%) 接受血液透析, 2526 名 (45.8%) 接受腹膜透析, 1757 名 (31.9%) 接受腎臟移植。這群腎病患者中, 共 90 名患者最後死於新冠病毒病, 當中超過六成未曾接種新冠疫苗。腹膜透析和血液透析人士死於新冠病毒病的死亡率相若, 每 1000 名透析人士分別有 19.4 人和 21.9 人死亡。然而, 死於新冠的腹膜透析患者未接種疫苗的比例 (73%) 較高。

研究結果凸顯新冠病毒病對透析患者構成的威脅。在第五波疫情期間, 每 100 名透析患者中就有約 2 名死於新冠病毒病。研究發現腹膜透析死亡病例的疫苗覆蓋率較低, 顯示香港的腹膜透析患者可能低估了他們的感染風險, 令警覺性下降, 疫苗接種率也明顯較低。

負責領導是次研究的周啟明醫生呼籲腎病透析患者及早接種疫苗, 免疫力弱人士更應該考慮接種二價疫苗。

詳細內容可參閱原文 [Impact of COVID-19 on the mortality of dialysis patients and kidney transplant recipients during the Omicron fifth wave in Hong Kong](#)。

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Source: KM Chow, John YH Chan, Sunny SH Wong, et al. Impact of COVID-19 on the mortality of dialysis patients and kidney transplant recipients during the Omicron fifth wave in Hong Kong. Hong Kong Med J 2023;29:Epub 13 Jan 2023. <https://doi.org/10.12809/hkmj2210309>.

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