

(C) Subjective global assessment (SGA)

- SGA should be used to identify severe malnutrition in haemodialysis patients (Evidence level III).

Rationale

SGA is based on a combination of subjective and objective features from the medical history and physical examination. A modified version of the SGA has been used in the Canada/United States Peritoneal Dialysis Study (CANUSA) and DOPPS studies (see Appendix). It was demonstrated that lower values of the mSGA were associated with a higher mortality risk [16]. The investigators concluded that in haemodialysis patients malnutrition, as indicated by low values obtained with the mSGA, was associated with higher mortality risk [16]. In a prospective observational study, it was also shown that patients with the lowest SGA score had higher mortality and hospitalization rates [17]. In a direct comparison with the determination of body nitrogen content by means of *in vivo* neutron activation analysis it was demonstrated that SGA was able to differentiate severely malnourished patients from those with normal nutrition, but appeared not to be a reliable predictor of the degree of malnutrition [18].

(D) Anthropometry

- Anthropometry in MHD patients should be assessed immediately after dialysis (Opinion).
- Anthropometry (Mid Arm Circumference (MAC), Mid-Arm Muscle Circumference (MAMC) and four site Skin Fold Thickness (SFT) should be performed by the same individual on the non-fistula arm (Opinion).

Rationale

BMI, Four-site skin fold thickness (SFT), mid-arm-circumference (MAC) and mid-arm-muscle-circumference (MAMC) are anthropometric screening methods to assess fat and lean body mass and may detect a potential risk for Protein and Energy Wasting (PEW). These are easy to use, widely available and cost effective tools to help assess nutritional status of patients on MHD but fluid status influences calculations.

Four-site SFT, MAC and MAMC: these anthropometric measurements are important for overall nutritional assessment. Measuring muscle mass, MAC and MAMC, is essential to assess muscle mass. It is necessary to perform skin fold thickness at four sites to obtain an accurate assessment of total body fat: triceps, biceps, sub-scapular and ileac crest. The Frisancho Tables (1984) and Durnin and Womersley (1974) equations are used to calculate lean body mass and body fat percentage from obtained details (see Appendix for methods).

Comparing SFT and bio impedance analysis (BIA): Oe *et al.* [19] evaluated body composition [lean body mass (LBM), body fat (BF) and total body water (TBW)] using SFT and BIA techniques in 20 stable MHD patients pre- and post-dialysis. These authors showed a good agreement between the two techniques ($R=0.93$, $P < 0.005$) and proposed that BIA might be the preferred method, as BIA is not operator dependent and requires minimal training to assess fluid status. Kamimura *et al.* [20] also found that SFT measurements were comparable with BIA and remain interesting for routine body fat assessment. Ninety clinically stable MHD patients were studied; body fat measurements using SFT and BIA were similar (13.5 ± 6.2 kg and 13.7 ± 6.7 kg). Further research is recommended to obtain references for body composition assessment that are simple to use in the routine care of MHD patients.

(E) Normalized protein nitrogen appearance (nPNA)

- Normalized PNA should be measured in clinically stable haemodialysis patients and be above 1.0 g/kg ideal BW/day (Evidence level III) (see Guideline 3).

Rationale

Normalized PNA provides an independent and less time consuming assessment of dietary protein intake. Nitrogen balance, the difference between intake and losses, is zero in the steady state or slightly positive. Both net protein breakdown under fasting conditions and dietary protein requirements are strongly influenced by body mass. In order to normalize PNA it should be related to body weight of the patient. When determining nPNA, patients should be stable and neither anabolic nor catabolic [21]. The protein equivalent of total PNA can be estimated from interdialytic changes in urea nitrogen concentrations in serum and urine (see Appendix). A recent study in more than 50,000 US adult haemodialysis patients reported that mortality was lowest for patients having a nPNA between 1.0 and 1.4 g protein/kg BW/day; furthermore, when patients had a decreased nPNA after a 6-month follow-up, the 18-month subsequent mortality increased [22]. PNA should however not be used alone to evaluate nutritional status, but rather as one of several independent measures when evaluating nutritional status.

(F) Serum albumin and serum prealbumin

- Serum albumin should be above 40 g/l by bromocresol green method (Evidence level III).
- For other albumin assessment methods the target values should be adapted to the above (Opinion).
- Serum prealbumin should be above 0.3 g/l (Evidence level III)

Rationale

Serum albumin is recommended for routine measurement because a large body of literature is available, that defines normal serum albumin values and characterizes the clinical factors affecting serum albumin concentrations. Serum albumin, *per se*, is an indicator of visceral protein stores. During recent years the interactions between inflammation and malnutrition status became complex, as inflammation and dietary protein intake exert competing effects on serum albumin levels [23]. A number of publications demonstrate the relationship between serum albumin concentrations and outcome [24]. Hypoalbuminaemia is a predictor of future mortality [25–29] and cardiac disease [27] at the time of initiation of dialysis and at any time during dialysis treatment. Among 1411 patients enrolled in the HEMO study, those in the low albumin group had significantly greater prevalence of coronary heart disease [30]. Serum albumin should not fall below 40 g/l (measured by the bromocresol green method). Patients with a serum albumin level below 35 g/l have a relative mortality risk of 4 [31], or a 2-year survival of 20% as compared with a 2-year survival of 80% in those with a serum albumin greater than 40 g/l [23].

Serum albumin levels are not only affected by poor energy and protein intake, but also by other factors including inflammation, catabolic and anabolic processes, age, comorbidity, fluid overload (i.e. plasma volume) and urinary albumin losses [32,33]. Albumin synthesis is reduced during the acute phase response. The presence of acute or chronic inflammation limits the specificity of serum albumin as a nutritional marker. Measurements of serum albumin levels is inexpensive, easy to perform and widely available. Since there are currently more than fifty different methods for measuring serum albumin in laboratories, reference values should be known to all nephrologists especially when benchmarking is done in order to compare levels in between centres on the national or international level.

The available literature suggests that prealbumin, also called transthyretin, may have unique validity among the panel of available biochemical nutritional indicators. However, no formal guideline was developed for serum prealbumin so far. Although predicting outcome, more mechanistic understanding of its functions is mandatory. Beside issues of reproducibility, costs inhibited implementation of prealbumin so far. Serum prealbumin is a more sensitive indicator for the nutrition status than albumin due to its shorter half life [34,35]. Prealbumin levels correlate strongly with serum albumin and have shown to provide prognostic value independent of albumin [36]. Because albumin is markedly influenced by inflammation as negative acute phase reactant its levels change more rapidly than prealbumin [37]. Therefore prealbumin is a good indicator of liver anabolic protein synthesis. The half life of serum

prealbumin is approximately two days instead of 20 days for albumin [34,35]. Serum prealbumin levels lower than 0.3 g/l predict a relative mortality risk of 2.64 [36]. The patients 2-year survival rate was 50% with a serum prealbumin level <0.3 g/l and 90% in patients with a prealbumin level >0.3 g/l. Another cohort of 130 patients observed for 10 years demonstrated that each 0.01 g/l increase in serum prealbumin at enrolment was associated with a 9% decrease in the relative risk of death [38].

(G) Serum cholesterol

- Serum total cholesterol should be measured and be above the minimal laboratory threshold value (Evidence level III).

Rationale and commentary

Serum cholesterol is a component of the lipid profile, recommended for routine measurement, to assess the cardiovascular risk of a given haemodialysis patient [39,40]. Low (<1.5 g/l) or declining serum cholesterol concentrations are predictive of increased mortality risk [31,34,41–45]. Hypocholesterolaemia is associated with chronic protein–energy deficits and/or the presence of comorbid conditions, including inflammation. Individuals with low, low–normal (1.5–1.8 g/l), or declining serum cholesterol levels should be investigated for possible nutritional deficits as well as for other comorbid conditions. The relationship between serum cholesterol and outcome has been described as either ‘J-shaped’ or ‘U-shaped’ with increasing risk for mortality as serum cholesterol falls below approximately 2 g/l or rises above 2–3 g/l. Low levels of cholesterol are confounded by inflammation [45] and are influenced by the same comorbid conditions that affect other nutritional markers (e.g. serum albumin). Predialysis serum cholesterol correlates with serum albumin, prealbumin, creatinine and age [46]. If a patient takes lipid lowering drugs, these should be taken into account in the total cholesterol values.

(H) Technical investigations

Rationale

For the assessment of malnutrition several technical tools are available such as bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA), whole body dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA), near infrared interactance (NIR) and *in vivo* neutron activation analysis. In addition the presence of malnutrition can be investigated by means of subjective global assessment.

In vivo neutron activation analysis is considered the reference standard for the determination of protein

malnourishment. In a sex- and age-matched study, Allman *et al.* [47] demonstrated that haemodialysis patients manifested a significantly lower total body nitrogen content, suggesting protein depletion. This observation was confirmed by Rayner *et al* in a larger group showing that nitrogen levels were more decreased in males (13%) than in females (4%). Later studies demonstrated that a significant proportion of haemodialysis patients had total body nitrogen depletion, expressed as a nitrogen index <80% being the ratio of measured nitrogen *vs* the predicted nitrogen for sex-, age- and height-matched controls [48–50]. This seems especially to be the case in older patients [48] and patients starting dialysis late *i.e.* at low levels of renal function [49]. Pollock *et al.* [48] demonstrated that patients with a nitrogen index of <80% had a relative risk of dying of 4.1 compared with patients with a higher index whereas Cooper *et al.* [51] found a hazard ratio of mortality of 1.6 per 10% of decline in nitrogen index. Several studies demonstrated that compared with *in vivo* neutron activation analysis, nutritional state analysis by means of anthropometry underestimated the presence of protein malnutrition in haemodialysis patients [47,50,52]. Studies comparing *in vivo* neutron activation analysis with BIA, DXA or NIR are lacking.

DXA determines in a non-invasive way fat mass, fat-free mass and bone mineral mass and density from which body composition is computed. Thus, protein–energy nutritional status can be assessed. However, there are only limited data comparing DXA-determined body composition of haemodialysis patients with that of healthy subjects. Woodrow *et al.* [53] demonstrated that in comparison with control subjects patients on chronic haemodialysis have a significant reduction in lean tissue mass. In this study, the investigators also found similar reductions in fat-free mass with BIA, which were not found with skin-fold anthropometry. Data comparing nutritional status between haemodialysis patients and control subjects determined with BIA are scarce. Woodrow *et al.* [53] demonstrated with BIA a decrease in lean body mass in haemodialysis patients compared with healthy control subjects. Madore *et al.* [54] developed an impedance index with which they could demonstrate in a small group of haemodialysis patients that fat mass and lean body mass were significantly reduced in 50% of patients compared with the ideal value obtained from the NHANES II tables, suggesting the existence of malnutrition in these patients. Likewise, Maggiore *et al.* [55] demonstrated that haemodialysis patients after haemodialysis had lower body weight and a reduced phase angle compared with healthy controls. However, these investigators concluded that bioimpedance indexes were not reliable in detecting clinically overt lean body mass depletion albeit that phase angle was strongly related to patient survival [55]. Likewise, Woodrow *et al.* [56] found in patients with chronic renal failure compared with control subjects

larger errors with BIA and skin fold anthropometry compared with DXA, suggesting that the latter technique is the preferred one.

Suggestion for future research

- Validation of the assessment of nutritional state by means of *in vivo* neutron activation analysis *vs* BIA, DXA and NIR.
- More frequent use of handgrip testing in clinical research studies.

Guideline 2.2. Monitoring and follow-up of nutritional status

- Nutritional status should be followed using the following assessment tools (Opinion):
 - (A) Dietary interviews
 - (B) Body weight
 - (C) nPNA, serum albumin and serum cholesterol
- The use of other technical investigations should be restricted to research purposes (Opinion).

(A) Dietary interviews

- Stable and well-nourished haemodialysis patients should be interviewed by a qualified dietitian every 6–12 months or every 3 months if they are over 50 years of age or on haemodialysis for more than 5 years (Evidence level III).
- Malnourished haemodialysis patients should undergo at least a 24-h dietary recall more frequently until improved (Opinion).

Rationale

Dietary interviews are the best way to detect in time a reduced food intake before other objective malnutrition parameters start changing. Depending on staffing constraints a 3-day dietary recording or a 24-h recall of previous day intake should be performed, evaluated and findings must be noted in the patient's care plan. During the same appointment any new dietary information can be implemented. Patients may need to be seen sooner if abnormal monthly blood tests require dietary intervention. Patients may request to visit the dietitian more often to alter parts of their dietary regimens or changes in their personal circumstances may indicate the need for additional information. Establishing a telephone help line and/or access to internet facilities enables dietitians and patients to communicate more frequently.

The reasons for more frequent interviews in patients over 50 years of age and treated by haemodialysis for more than 5 years have been discussed in Guideline 1.

Table 1. Significance of unplanned weight loss

Unplanned weight loss in past 3–6 months (% body weight)	Significance
> 10% of body weight	Clinically significant
5–10% of body weight	More than normal intra-individual variation (potentially significant)—early indicator of risk of malnutrition increased
< 5% of body weight	Within ‘normal’ intra-individual variation (small)

(B) Body weight

- Post dialysis body weight should be averaged over the month and percentage change in the average weight of the previous month, should be calculated (Opinion).
- Percent interdialytic weight gain (IDWG) should be based on ‘dry weight’ (post dialysis) (Evidence level III).

Rationale

It has been suggested that MHD patients should have been on MHD for 60 days as this can reflect ‘dry weight’ more accurately [12]. Ideal body weight (IBW) is the weight based on a range of BMI’s that yields the lowest morbidity and mortality rates. IBW may need to be adjusted in overweight and underweight patients.

Unintentional weight loss during the previous 3–6 months period is more accurate as a risk factor for protein–energy malnutrition than BMI. This weight loss may be categorized according to the British Association of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (BAPEN) Malnutrition Advisory Group as in Table 1 [57].

Therefore, a simple cut-off of >10% weight loss during the last 3–6 months can be recommended for the diagnosis of malnutrition.

Typically MHD patients are advised to keep IDWG between 2 and 2.5 kg. Current guidelines for daily fluid intake vary from 500 to 750 ml in addition to daily urine output. Thirst is dependent on dietary sodium (salt) intake and a high sodium intake will contribute to excessive IDWG and may not be the immediate result of food intake itself. Therefore, MHD patients must be advised to reduce their daily sodium (salt) intake to 5–6 g salt (Na 85–100 mmol). However, patients eating well also gain additional weight in between dialysis and this is due to the invisible fluid content of food. A ‘dry’ diet of 2100 Kcal can contain as much as 300–350 ml fluid and this adds to the daily fluid intake.

It has been suggested by Sherman *et al.* [58] that IDWG could reflect nutritional intake. In a study of 860 randomly selected patients, a relationship between IDWG and nPCR was noted, a higher protein (g/kg) intake was associated with a higher IDWG, confirmed by a correlation analysis that dry weight and nPCR

were independent factors ($R = -0.05$). There was a small but significant positive association between IDWG and serum albumin concentrations: 3.78 vs 3.83 g/dl ($P < 0.001$) in patients with a <3% and >4.5% dry weight gain, respectively. Testa *et al.* [59] also found that dietary protein and energy intake was higher in patients with a higher IDWG of $4.5 \pm 1.5\%$ during the 3 days interval. Dietary protein, energy and sodium intake were assessed from 3-day diet diaries from 32 patients, for each patient for 1 year. This study suggests that a stable IDWG may be a clinical indicator of adequate protein and energy intake and that the extent of IDWG was not directly related to blood pressure even in hypertensive patients.

Some patients are afraid of gaining more than 2 kg in between dialysis treatment and this may affect their nutritional intake. Nutritional counselling is therefore important and should establish which patients eat well compared with those who do not and have a lower IDWG. Patients with large weight gains should nevertheless be challenged to assess what proportion is nutritive and non-nutritive fluid consumption. Staff should be aware of this when assessing compliance with dietary and fluid intake when discussing ‘individual ideal IDWG’ of 2 kg or less as this may be inappropriate for some patients. A percentage of dry body weight gain of 4–4.5% seems acceptable in patients with an optimal nutritional intake and observing salt restriction.

Recommendation for future research

Further studies are required to evaluate what constitutes an ‘ideal’ IDWG for the well nourished and what percentage is acceptable for hypertensive and cardiovascularly unstable MHD patients.

(C) nPNA, serum albumin and serum cholesterol

- nPNA, serum albumin and serum cholesterol should be measured at presentation, 1 month after beginning of haemodialysis and three months thereafter in clinically stable patients (Opinion).
- In clinically unstable patients with a number of comorbidities, persistent inflammation, during periods of intensive dietary counselling and during therapeutic intervention the frequency of measurements should be increased to monthly intervals (Opinion).

Rationale

Albumin levels also reflect several non-nutritional factors which are frequently present in MHD patients, including inflammation and infection, urinary and dialysate losses as well as hydration status. Therefore, serum albumin alone is not a clinically useful measure

for protein/energy nutritional status in MHD patients. Hypoalbuminaemia in MHD patients does not necessarily indicate protein–energy malnutrition, which also may not correlate with changes in other nutritional parameters.

Normalized PNA is a valid estimate of protein intake, is well validated and simple to use in the clinical setting. It is important to monitor protein intake in MHD patients. However, there are limitations as well such as overestimation of dietary protein intake when the protein intake is <1 g/kg/day, possibly due to protein catabolism [60,61]. Normalizing PNA to body weight can be misleading in obese and volume overloaded patients. It is recommended that for individuals who are <90% or >115% of standardized body weight, the oedema-free adjusted body weight is used.

Serum total cholesterol is part of the routine lipid profile measured in 3–6 month intervals according to changes in clinical status and during lipid modifying interventions [39]. Similar arguments apply for serum cholesterol as for serum albumin. Serum cholesterol may not correlate with changes in nutrition but also with changes in other nutritional parameters e.g. with those pointing to an activated acute phase reaction.

Technical investigations are not recommended for routine follow up

Rationale

Changes in body composition reflecting nutritional status can be monitored with several techniques although the number of studies is limited and direct comparisons of these techniques with a gold standard are lacking. By means of *in vivo* neutron activation analysis a declining trend in the nitrogen index was found after 1 year in prevalent haemodialysis patients whereas the nitrogen index correlated with dietary calorie intake [48]. Pupim *et al.* [62] investigated nutritional parameters for 1 year in 50 incident haemodialysis patients including BIA every 3 months and DXA at the beginning and end of the year. BIA-derived fat mass as well as DXA-measured fat mass increased over time suggesting an improvement of nutritional status. This was not associated with a change in body mass of these patients, which was explained by a decrease in total body water. In prevalent chronic diabetic haemodialysis patients a decrease in DXA-determined fat mass was found after 1 year of treatment which was attributed to impaired nutritional status in these patients [63]. From these studies it can be concluded that technical tools can be used to monitor changes in body composition. Future research, however, should further clarify which method is the preferred one and with what intervals it should be applied.

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Guideline 3. Recommendations for protein and energy intake

Guideline 3.1. Recommended protein intake

- The dietary protein intake in clinically stable chronic haemodialysis patients should be at least 1.1 g protein/kg ideal body weight/day (Evidence level III).
- The achieved nPNA in a clinically stable chronic haemodialysis patient should be at least 1.0 g/ideal body weight/day (Evidence level III).

Rationale

The prevalence rate of protein–energy malnutrition in chronic haemodialysis patients ranges from 20% to 70% with an average of 40% [1–3]. A poor nutrient intake is the most frequent cause for malnutrition in MHD patients. Observational or interventional clinical trials have reported patients' spontaneous intakes to be as low as 20–25 kcal/kg/day and/or 0.8–1.0 g/kg protein/day [4,5]. Although some patients may do well with slightly lower intakes than recommended, the general dialysis population should be advised to reach a minimal protein intake of 1.1 g protein/kg/day. Protein intake should be taken with a sufficient energy intake (e.g. 30–40 kcal/kg/day, see Recommendation 3.2) to guarantee an optimal metabolic balance.

Protein requirements. There has been controversy regarding the optimal protein intake in MHD patients since clinical studies are scarce and their duration is usually too short (on average less than 10 days) to obtain valid conclusions. In healthy adults, metabolic studies include nitrogen balances during many days or weeks, and whole body as well as regional (at tissue level such as forearm) amino acid turnover studies. Values reported in these studies are expressed as a mean \pm SD. However, when transferred to the general population, a mean experimental value of a minimal intake means that 50% of subjects will be covered whereas 50% will not be adequately covered by the proposed level. Since there is no method for identifying those patients who will not be in balance by eating this mean value, the World Health Organization defined a 'population level' by adding 2 SDs of the mean to the protein intake obtained through metabolic studies [6]. This 'population level' is therefore considered safe, since it will ensure that 97.5% of patients would get

enough protein to balance their needs. Consequently, this also implies that almost half of the subjects will be counselled to achieve a protein intake above their individual needs. This is the reason why a given subject can remain in metabolic equilibrium, e.g. in adequate nutritional status when receiving a protein intake less than recommended.

For healthy young adults, the most recent recommendations have slightly increased the daily protein intake towards 0.8–0.85 g/kg body weight [6,7]. Furthermore, in a recent meta-analysis, it was not possible to recommend different values for elderly people, nor was it possible to find marked differences in requirement according to the nature of animal or vegetable protein [7]. Thus, a balanced intake of high quality animal protein and vegetable protein source should be proposed.

Protein requirements in the normal population chronic haemodialysis. During routine haemodialysis, protein requirements do not appear to be sufficient for the following reasons. First, the dialysis treatment induces a loss of nutrients (glucose, amino acids, vitamins and trace elements) through the dialysis filter, which may even be more important today in response to the use of more porous membranes and/or more efficient techniques such as haemofiltration [8,9]. Second, the dialysis procedure itself is a catabolic event responsible for protein catabolism (fragmentation of albumin, release of pro-inflammatory cytokines, role of heparin) [9–15]. For example, in response to the rapid decrease in plasma amino acid at the start of the haemodialysis session, muscle proteolysis occurs in order to maintain an adequate plasma and cellular amino acid concentration [16,17]. This catabolic event may lead to muscle wasting over the long term. Feeding patients during the dialysis session through regular meals, special liquid feeding or parenteral administration has been shown to revert this catabolic state and should be used as frequently as possible [11,17,18]. Some authors have hypothesized that, during the non-dialysis days, the catabolic stress may not be present or even be replaced by an anabolic response [19]. Nutrient intake may vary according to the dialysis schedule: food intake was greater by approximately 10% on non-dialysis days than on dialysis days [5], an observation not confirmed by Kloppenburg *et al.* [20]. During a standard three-weekly dialysis schedule, food intake was recently reported to be spontaneously reduced by 40% on the last day of the long interdialysis interval, probably in order to avoid fluid overload [21]. This last observation fits well with the previous report from Sherman *et al.* [22] showing that patients with a reduced interdialytic weight gain (<3% dry weight) had a mean nPNA of 0.94 g/kg BW/day, as compared with those who had an interdialytic weight gain >4% corresponding to a nPNA of 1.17 g/kg BW/day.

Research data in dialysis patients indicate that in most metabolic studies performed in adult chronic dialysis patients, a protein intake of 0.8–0.85 g/kg BW/day or less was constantly associated with a

negative metabolic balance [23–27]. When protein intake averaged 1.1 g/kg/day or more, most patients showed neutral or positive balance [23–27] but not all [28]. These observations have led many investigators to recommend a safety level of protein intake of 1.2 g/kg BW/day. After publication of previous nutritional guidelines in renal disease [29, 30], sporadic reports have challenged these recommendations, by reporting good nutritional status in patients eating less protein [31,32]. These observations may have been obtained in selected patients, and for the safety reasons detailed above, lower levels of protein intake should not be recommended for the general dialysis population.

Protein intake and nutritional status in epidemiological studies in maintenance dialysis. In a cross-sectional survey of more than 7400 haemodialysis patients, Aparicio *et al.* [4] showed that serum albumin reached a plateau of 39.3 g/l for a PNA of 1–1.2 g/kg/day, but no superior serum albumin values were observed in patients with greater nPNAs. Additional data have recently been obtained from prospective epidemiological studies [33–35]. Ohkawa *et al.* [33] reported in 127 MHD patients that body composition, as assessed by CT scan, was maintained constant with a level of protein intake of 0.9–1.1 g protein/kg/day, and that there was no clinical or biochemical benefit for the patients eating more than 1.1 g protein/kg/day. Kloppenburg and colleagues performed a randomized cross-over trial comparing two levels of protein intake (0.9 vs 1.1 g/kg BW/day) for 40 weeks each in 45 haemodialysis patients [36]. They did not observe significant changes in nutritional parameters between the two diets which were comparable in terms of energy intake (28–30 kcal/kg BW/day). In a secondary analysis of the HEMO study, serum albumin was shown to be positively associated with protein intake (assessed by equilibrated normalized PCR) only between 0.4 and 1.0 g/kg/day, without further benefit on serum albumin for a nPCR > 1.0 [37].

Is a protein intake greater than 1.2 g/kg/day harmful in chronic haemodialysis? Although larger protein intakes may not improve nutritional status, they may possibly be associated with better survival: in a 2-year prospective follow-up of more than 1600 chronic haemodialysis patients in France, higher nPNA was associated with higher survival by univariate analysis [34]. More recently, the same group reported increased survival in patients with an nPNA between 1.24 and 1.46 g/kg BW/day, as compared with the quartiles having an nPNA lower than 1.24. Survival was not further improved in the upper quartile of patients taking 1.46 g protein and above [35]. In another recent 1-year prospective study, Kalantar *et al.* [38] reported an inverse relationship between PNA (mean value, 1.13 ± 0.29 g/kg/day, range 0.5–2.15) and mortality or hospitalization rate in 122 patients adequately dialysed (Kt/V > 1.2).

Protein intake and CKD mineral and bone disease. Elevated protein intakes are not dissociable

from an increase in dietary phosphate, which has led some investigators to warn against a potential increase in vascular calcification. Most clinical trials have specifically addressed the question of dietary phosphate restriction only in CKD stages 2 and 3, well before end-stage renal disease (stage 5), in an attempt to prevent secondary hyperparathyroidism [39]. Once dialysis treatment is started however, the relationship between dietary phosphate and hyperphosphataemia is less straightforward, since bone metabolism and intestinal absorption become the focus of complex interactions and new therapeutic interventions [40]. In 39 patients undergoing a 80-week randomized cross-over trial, Kloppenburg *et al.* [36] reported that two different protein intakes (0.94 vs 1.15 g/kg IBW/day, estimated from food reports, corresponding to a nPNA of 0.9 and 1.0 g/kg/day, respectively) were not associated with different serum phosphate levels (1.88 ± 0.40 vs 1.89 ± 0.39 mmol/l, respectively). Serum phosphate was markedly influenced by the dialysis dose, being lower in the greater dialysis dose group (1.77 ± 0.30 vs 2.01 ± 0.41 mmol/l for Kt/Vs of 1.26 ± 0.14 and 1.02 ± 0.08, respectively), underlining the predominant importance of the dialysis dose over the protein intake in controlling serum phosphate and the phosphocalcic product. Many individuals may have a high serum phosphate without eating a large quantity of proteins, possibly from a greater intestinal fractional absorption of phosphate and the influence of vitamin D therapy, and these patients may better benefit from oral phosphate binders than from a reduction in their protein intake. In contrast, low serum phosphate is frequently associated with low protein intake in patients undergoing regular 4-h or shorter haemodialysis sessions. Indeed, Lorenzo *et al.* [41] reported that patients with a serum phosphate < 4 mg/dl did eat 0.86 ± 0.3 g protein/kg BW/day whereas those with a serum phosphate > 4 mg/dl had a protein intake of 1.05 ± 0.4 g/kg/day. Finally, and most importantly, there is no prospective clinical trial to show that the vascular risk associated with elevated serum phosphorus or calcium phosphate product occurs in response to a high protein intake.

Protein intake and frequency of haemodialysis. The frequency of the dialysis sessions should be considered when analysing nutritional intake. Indeed, fear of overload or pulmonary oedema may significantly limit food intake during the interdialytic interval, particularly during the long 3-day period [21]. Switching patients to a daily haemodialysis program, either long nocturnal or short 2-h, has been reported to augment protein intake up to 40%, an increase that was sustained over 1 year and associated with improved serum albumin in almost all pilot studies [42]. The reasons for this improved nutrient intake is probably due to the lifting of the fluid restriction and other general limitations of food intake, especially for those nutrients containing phosphate and/or potassium.

Protein intake and inflammation. Inflammation, which has been repeatedly reported in 20–50% of routine haemodialysis patients, may impair nutritional status by different mechanisms such as increased anorexia and/or protein catabolism [37,43]. Controversial debate occurs as to whether protein intake may reverse impaired nutritional status in the presence of chronic inflammation. In a randomized dietary intervention study, Leon *et al.* [44] showed that it was possible to increase serum albumin over 6 months in haemodialysis patients by simple dietary counselling, and this improvement also occurred when chronic inflammation was present. In an ancillary analysis of the HEMO study in more than 1000 MHD patients, Kaysen *et al.* [37] showed that serum albumin was independently influenced by either protein intake or inflammation status. Indeed, serum albumin correlated positively with protein intake (as assessed by 'nPCR') only for a protein intake <1.0 g/kg/day, with no further benefit above, and there was no inflammation impact on serum albumin for C reactive protein (CRP) values <13 mg/l [37]. These authors suggested that the independent effect of protein intake might positively impact on nutritional status of inflamed patients with a CRP > 13 mg/l. A comparable observation has been reported by Chauveau and colleagues [35] in a recent prospective cohort of more than 400 MHD patients. These authors showed that the 2-year survival of patients with a serum CRP > 10 mg/l was superior for the patients with a nPNA \geq 1.2 g/kg/day. Thus, the relationship between chronic inflammation, dietary intake and nutritional status still remains unclear but may suggest that malnourished inflamed patients may benefit from increased protein intakes.

Thus from these studies, it seems that nutritional status does not much improve when protein intake is 1.0–1.2 g/kg/day or above, whereas there might be a sustained protective effect on morbi-mortality for protein intakes slightly above these nutritional recommendations. These hypotheses should be confirmed in larger specifically designed prospective studies. Practically however, if an individual dialysis patient eats slightly less (0.9–1.0 g/kg/day) than recommended and presents with a stable nutritional status, in absence of superimposed disease or catabolic event, and until further survival studies become available, his/her protein intakes may be maintained under the recommended level unless clinical and/or biochemical nutritional indices worsen.

Recommendation for further research

- Which PNA gives the best survival in chronic haemodialysis?
- Formula for normalizing PNA.
- Specific protein needs for malnourished HD patients (may differ from well-nourished patients).
- Effect of dialysis techniques on nutritional status (haemofiltration, daily dialysis, etc.) on appetite and

their relationship with appetite regulatory factors (leptin, ghrelin).

- Effects of higher protein intake on malnourished inflamed patients.
- Relationship between protein intake, vascular calcification and bone metabolism.

Guideline 3.2. Recommended energy intake

- The recommended energy intake in a clinically stable chronic haemodialysis patient should be 30–40 kcal/kg IBW/day, adjusted to age, gender and to the best estimate of physical activity level (Evidence level III).
- Regular physical activity should be encouraged, and energy intake should be increased proportionally to the level of physical activity (Opinion).

Rationale

Energy metabolism in chronic kidney disease. Energy metabolism may be impaired during CKD, in response to metabolic disorders such as insulin resistance and impaired triglyceride utilization, carnitine deficiency, hyperparathyroidism, metabolic acidosis, chronic inflammation and the haemodialysis procedure itself [45]. However, except in severely sick patients, these abnormalities do not seem to greatly affect resting energy expenditure (REE) [45–50]. Indeed, even if some activities or treatments impact on energy metabolism in CKD, this will occur for only short periods of time in the entire nyctemere and the resulting overcost may not significantly alter the daily energy expenditure (DEE) [6,51]. Energy expenditure has even been shown to be reduced in CKD patients as compared with control subjects [51,52]. The main reason for altered energy metabolism seems therefore to be a predominant deficit in energy intake rather than an increase in energy expenditure. Indeed, many reports in MHD showed energy intake being as low as 20–22 kcal/kg BW/day [53–56]. When normalized by lean body mass, REE may be more elevated in MHD than in peritoneal dialysis for yet unexplained reasons [57], but this normalization does not reflect a general consensus until now [45,53].

How to estimate daily energy expenditure? Estimation of daily energy expenditure (DEE) has been performed by different research tools including indirect calorimetry (sequential or continuous over 24 h or more), deuterated water, physical activity questionnaires, and Harris-Benedict or Schofield formulas [6,47,48,57–60]. Daily energy expenditure strongly depends on the active metabolic mass, e.g. lean body mass, but is independent on fat mass [48]. Since excess energy intake is rapidly stored in fat tissue in the body, the optimal daily energy intake (DEI) in a stable adult equals his/her daily energy expenditure. A detailed individual calculation of DEI firstly includes the estimation of resting energy expenditure (REE) also

called basal metabolic rate, strongly influenced by thermic conditions including ambient temperature, and thyroid function.

Resting energy expenditure (REE) can be estimated as follows:

- 3.2.1 By the use of the Schofield tables reported by the WHO [6]:

	Males	Females
18 – 30 years	$15.3 \times BW + 679$	$14.7 \times BW + 496$
30 – 60 years	$11.6 \times BW + 879$	$8.7 \times BW + 829$
> 60 years	$13.5 \times BW + 487$	$10.5 \times BW + 596$

where REE is expressed in kcal/day and body weight (BW) in kg

- 3.2.2 By the use of Harris-Benedict equations as follows:

$$\text{For men: } REE = 66 + (13.7 \times BW) + (5 \times H) - (6.8 \times A)$$

$$\text{For women: } REE = 655.1 + (9.6 \times BW) + (1.8 \times H) - (4.7 \times A)$$

where REE is expressed in kcal/day, body weight (BW) in kg, height (H) in cm and age (A) in years.

- 3.2.3 By the use of Black equations [61] as follows:

$$\text{For men: } REE = 259 \times BW^{0.48} \times H^{0.50} \times A^{-0.13}$$

$$\text{For women: } REE = 230 \times BW^{0.48} \times H^{0.50} \times A^{-0.13}$$

where REE is expressed in kcal/day, body weight (BW) in kg, height (H) in m and age (A) in years.

The third important and highly variable determinant of daily energy expenditure (DEE) is physical activity. To obtain the optimal DEE, REE should be multiplied by an activity factor, which greatly depends on the type and the duration of professional and recreational activities. This factor is generally comprised between 1.3 and 2, with a mean of 1.5 in most publications [59] with an upper limit of 2.2 in case of extremely high physical activity, an uncommon condition in routine dialysis (see [6] for detailed calculations).

Thus, daily energy expenditure (DEE) can be estimated as follows:

- Daily energy expenditure (i.e. daily energy requirement):

$$DEE(\text{kcal/day}) = 1.5^1 \times REE$$

¹activity factor could vary from 1.2 to 2 (see text for comments)

Examples:

- A 40-year male weighting 75 kg, with a height of 1.75 m will have a REE of about 1700 kcal/day. If he develops a moderate but significant activity, his DEE will be 1700×1.5 , e.g. 2550 kcal per day, equal to 34 kcal/kg/day.
- A frail elderly woman, aged 75, with a weight of 50 kg and a height of 1.60 m and a very sedentary

lifestyle (AF of 1.4), will have a DEE of approximately 1500 kcal/day, e.g. 30 kcal/kg/day.

- A 30-year very active male, weighting 80 kg with a height of 1.80 m, will have a REE of 1900 kcal/day, and his DEE will be $1900 \times 1.7 = 3230$ kcal, e.g. 40 kcal/kg/day.

The WHO recommendations obtained through the Schofield tables (see equation 3.2.1) have been recently challenged, and newer studies have reported measured daily energy expenditure to be even lower by 8–14% and 16–20% in sedentary adult women and men, respectively [62,63]. Elderly people have a decline in REE in response to a 3% loss of lean body mass per decade and their activity factor was estimated to be low, at about 1.45. In the most recent dietary reference intakes released by the Food and Nutrition board (Institute of Medicine, Washington, USA), to determine someone's energy requirement, the DEE is estimated for a 30-year old adult and then reduced by 7 and 10 kcal/year for age above 30 [63]. Blanc *et al.* [59] reported that the WHO recommendations led to a 10% overestimation of daily energy expenditure in elderly women (mean age, 75 year), underlining the need for further research in larger cohorts of patients. Thus, from the most recent publications in the field, it seems that energy requirements could be lower than previously reported.

Finally, there is a metabolic adaptation to a reduced energy intake, which includes a decrease in resting energy expenditure, both from a loss of active lean body mass, but also through an improved efficiency of energy metabolism, as recently showed by Friedlander *et al.* [64]. Thus, even though their energy intake does not reach the recommended values, malnourished patients may still benefit from a relative increase in their nutritional intake, from spontaneous or supplemental oral intake, or from oral or parenteral sources during the dialysis session [11,18,65].

How to estimate daily energy intake? Since energy intake in excess of expenditure is rapidly stored as fat in a stable well-nourished haemodialysis patient, the optimal energy intake equals his/her daily energy expenditure. In contrast to protein, estimation of energy intake can only be done by monitoring intake and not by collecting any fluid parameter. There are a lot of difficulties in performing diet collections, among which dietitian availability and patient training, knowledge and perception of exact food intake, time consumption and cost. Precision of food reports are limited and may artefactually underestimate patients' true energy intake, the magnitude of underestimation being greater in patients with larger BMIs, in both men and women [58]. From a recent analysis from 40 MHD patients, Kloppenburg *et al.* [66] measured basal metabolic rate and obtained self reports of energy intake. Whereas in general, the daily energy expenditure cannot be lower than $1.2\text{--}1.3 \times REE$ (see above), these authors found that 60% of patients had an

energy intake report lower than $1.27 \times \text{REE}$. Since these patients did not present with symptoms of chronic malnutrition, the authors suggested that daily energy intake was notably underestimated. The under-reporting of energy intake could be improved by increasing the number of dietary interviews: it has been shown that at least four different 3-day dietary interviews separated each by 1 month were necessary to reduce the intraindividual variability of reports [67], the impact of dialysis or non-dialysis day schedule [5], but 5–7 days appear optimal [20]. In addition, a 7-day collection is more conform with reality of intakes, since there is in some patients an important spontaneous intake reduction the 'seventh-day', e.g. the last day of the long interdialytic interval, [21]. Training should be performed, including spouse and/or relatives to help identifying nutrient type and size of servings since patients are not able to clearly identify the different sources of nutrients [44]. Finally, it should be emphasized that energy intake cannot be derived from other reported food components. Indeed, for a same amount of protein intake, the variability of energy intake between patients is too large to draw any reliable relationship between protein and energy intake [68]. Thus, physical activity determination and reported dietary energy intake will be the best estimate of patients' needs.

Is energy intake sufficient in MHD patients? After the publication of previous guidelines [29,30], there was some disagreement between the recommended values as compared with what was reported in observational studies [54–56]. Most epidemiological studies have reported energy intakes lower than recommended, and being as little as 20–25 kcal/kg BW/day. Thus, when clinical or biological indices of malnutrition are found in a given patient (see Guideline 2), a nutritional work-up should be rapidly performed. However, if there is no clear sign of ongoing malnutrition or (a) catabolic process or processes, a number of facts may partly explain the discrepancy between low reported energy intake and patient's nutritional status. There could be a true inadequate energy intake that will lead to reduced physical activity, altered protein metabolism and muscle losses: this could be corrected by active nutritional support (see Guideline 5). Alternatively, individual energy expenditure was not correctly assessed, in case of a more reduced than estimated physical activity, which is frequent in chronically haemodialysed patients: thus the true energy needs are closer to 30 kcal/kg/day or may even be slightly less in elderly sedentary women (see above formulas for calculation). A third event is the potential underestimation of energy intake through the food reports or dietary interviews, an occurrence recently confirmed in healthy adults [69] as well as in renal failure patients [45,53,66,70].

Energy intake can be markedly increased in MHD patients by administering oral supplements [71,72]. Daily amounts of 500 kcal could be delivered quite easily and the benefits related to these interventions

have been recently reported to be better than previously expected (see Guideline 5). Increasing the frequency of dialysis to daily sessions has allowed a generous increase in energy intake in recent reports [42,73]. These interventions have been associated with weight gain, both from fat and lean body mass.

In summary, estimating energy needs and energy intake is a skilled task, and recent findings have underlined the following points: (1) there is a trend for lowering the daily energy requirements in healthy adults, particularly in women; (2) energy expenditure should be more closely matched to physical activity, which may be very variable between individuals, and particularly reduced in dialysis patients; (3) almost all methods for monitoring daily energy intake, even when used by a trained staff, do underestimate actual energy intake. Whether this information applies to dialysis patients is not fully known and may be the scope for further research. However, these points partly explain why, in routine practice, patients may do acceptably well despite recorded energy intakes lower than previously recommended.

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4. Recommendations for vitamins, minerals and trace elements administration in MHD patients

Due to insufficient evidence from clinical trials for recommending administration of vitamins, the following information only reflects the expert's opinion and cannot be considered as a clinical guideline but a recommendation.

4.1. Vitamins

Abnormal renal metabolism, inadequate intake and/or gastrointestinal absorption and dialysis losses, account for vitamin deficiencies amongst dialysis patients. Losses are even greater with high-flux and high-efficiency dialysis. Vitamin deficiency progresses slowly depending on body stores, nutritional intake and chronic dialysis losses. Vitamin status in individual patients depends on age, gender, actual vitamin intake, previous supplementation, dialysis losses, residual renal function, time on dialysis and types of dialysers in addition to impaired metabolism. Ideally vitamin supplements should be tailored to individual needs. Overt clinical manifestations include depressed immune system, neuropathy and impaired amino acid and lipid metabolism, mild scurvy and other abnormalities. The most frequently observed vitamin disturbances concern water soluble vitamins and these may be supplemented daily or administered after dialysis, three times weekly, which promotes compliance.

In a recent prospective cohort study, the DOPPS evaluated the relative risk (RR) for hospitalization and mortality in 16345 MHD patients from 308 randomly selected renal centres in Europe, Japan and USA [1]. There were large regional variations in the percentage of patients who received various multivitamin types of water soluble vitamins. In Europe, this ranged from 3.7% in the United Kingdom to 6.4% in Italy and 37.9% in Spain; it was 5.6% in Japan as compared with 71.9% in the US. Possible reasons for these large variations may be due to differences in cost, health insurance coverage, patient's preferences and patients and medical staff health beliefs regarding efficacy as several short-term studies have in the past not shown benefits. The DOPPS evaluation showed a 16% reduction in the relative risk for mortality in MHD patients taking water soluble vitamins [2].

However, only a prospective randomized controlled trial would prove that water soluble vitamin supplementation improves outcomes. The authors meanwhile proposed that while awaiting further more robust evidence, prescription of water soluble vitamin supplements, being of minimal medical risk, could be proposed to the patients [1]. If administered, watersoluble vitamin supplements should be taken or infused at the end of the dialysis session. Patients should be discouraged to purchase regular vitamin

and mineral supplements over the counter as requirements differ from those for healthy people, and some formulas include vitamins that are not recommended in maintenance dialysis.

4.1.1 Water-soluble vitamins

Thiamine (B1)

- **A daily supplement of 1.1–1.2 mg thiamin hydrochloride is recommended**

Rationale. Thiamine deficiency is responsible for beriberi, a rare condition in MHD patients. Vitamin B1 deficiency may also be evoked in case of atypical neurological symptoms (Wernicke encephalitis). Thiamine is strongly removed during haemodialysis. Thiamine plasma concentration may not reflect its biological activity. Thiamine intake in MHD patients can range from 0.6 to 1.5 mg/day depending on individual food consumption, and is mainly contained in pork meat, beer and dried vegetables [3]. Patients with a poor nutritional intake, as may occur in the elderly, are most likely to benefit from supplementation. Thiamine has been administered in amounts up to 300 mg/week in patients undergoing high-flux haemodialysis [4]. Presently, all renal multivitamin formulas include thiamine, from 1.5 mg (Nephrovite[®], Diallyvite3000[®], Diatx[®], USA, Renavit[®], Germany), 3 mg (Renax[®], USA) to 50 mg (Dialvit[®], Switzerland) per tablet.

Riboflavin (B2)

- **A daily supplement of 1.1–1.3 mg is recommended**

Rationale. Although it is well cleared during haemodialysis, not tightly bound to proteins, riboflavin deficiency is uncommon. A supplement of 1.1–1.3 mg is equal to the recommended daily allowance of healthy people and is sufficient to supplement inadequate nutritional intake and dialysis losses [3]. Riboflavin is contained in milk, bread and cereals, lean meat and egg. Presently, all renal multivitamin formulas include riboflavin, from 1.7 mg (Nephrovite[®], Diallyvite3000[®], USA, Renavit[®], Germany), 2 mg (Renax[®], USA) to 10 mg (Dialvit[®], Switzerland) per tablet.

Pyridoxine (B6)

- **A daily supplement of 10 mg as pyridoxine hydrochloride is recommended**

Rationale. There is evidence that plasma and red cell pyridoxine levels are low in MHD patients. Although the pyridoxine recommended dietary allowance in healthy adults is 1.3–1.7 mg, the use of erythropoietin (EPO) may increase requirements because of increased erythropoiesis. Some drugs and other substances interfere with pyridoxine metabolism, an additional cause for deficiency. A decreased level of pyridoxine may be associated with hyperhomocysteinaemia,

but the benefit of supplementation is as yet unclear [3,5]. Pyridoxine is contained in yeast, cereal buds, green vegetables, egg yolk and meat. A supplement of 10 mg/day is recommended as this is the lowest pyridoxine hydrochloride dose that has consistently normalized pyridoxine deficiency and the transamination activation index of stable MHD patients. Pyridoxine supplementation given to correct hyperoxalaemia or hyperhomocysteinaemia is still a controversial issue. High doses of pyridoxine hydrochloride (200–600 mg daily) should be avoided as these have been associated with peripheral neuropathy. Presently, all renal multivitamin formulas include pyridoxine, 10 mg (Nephrovite[®], Diallyvite3000[®], USA, Renavit[®], Germany), 15 mg (Renax[®], USA), 40 mg (Dialvit[®], Switzerland) and 50 mg (Diatx Zn[®], USA) per tablet.

Ascorbic Acid (vitamin C)

- **A daily supplement of 75–90 mg is recommended.**

Rationale. Vegetables and fresh fruit are the main sources of vitamin C but these foods are often restricted or need to be avoided in a potassium restricted diet, resulting in an inadequate intake. In addition, vitamin C is inactivated by heat during cooking. Vitamin C is readily removed by dialysis as reported by Wang *et al.* [6]. Serum levels fell by 30–40% after a single dialysis session and losses from 80 to 280 mg per dialysis session have been reported [3]. Vitamin C deficiency contributes to a mild form of scurvy sometimes seen in MHD patients, may lead to abnormal amino acid metabolism and disturbances in folic acid metabolism. Although high-flux dialysis techniques increase vitamin C losses, Descombes *et al.* [4] reported normal plasma ascorbate values in patients receiving 500 mg vitamin C at the end of the dialysis session thrice weekly. Vitamin C supplements appear to improve functional iron deficiency and hence the response to EPO [7–9].

Vitamin C supplementation may help to relieve muscle cramps. In a double blind randomized trial, 60 MHD patients, divided into four groups, daily received either vitamin E (400 mg), vitamin C (250 mg), either vitamins or a placebo for 8 weeks [10]. Muscle cramps significantly improved in patients receiving both vitamins E and C (97%), vitamin E alone (54%), vitamin C (61%) as compared with only 7% of placebo-treated patients [10].

More recently, Deicher *et al.* [11] reported that, in MHD patients followed for 30 months, total vitamin C plasma levels were predictive of mortality, with a risk of dying at least three times greater in the plasma vitamin C tertiles < 60 µmol/l, suggesting to keep patients plasma vitamin C levels above this target. Further studies are required to explore safety, to what extent patients are vitamin deficient, and whether other dialysis factors may increase removal. High doses of vitamin C (e.g. superior to 500–1000 mg daily) should however be avoided in MHD patients because of tissue oxalate deposition in response to increased

serum oxalates not cleared by the failing kidney. Presently, renal multivitamin formulas generally include vitamin C, e.g. 50 mg (Renax[®], USA), 60 mg (Nephrovite[®], Diatx Zn[®], USA, Renavit[®], Germany), 100 mg (Dialyvite3000[®], USA) and 200 mg (Dialvit[®], Switzerland) per tablet.

Folic Acid (Folate, vitamin B9)

- **A daily supplement of 1 mg folic acid is recommended.**

Rationale. In MHD patients, folic acid levels may be reduced in serum and red blood cells and induce megaloblastic anaemia. Folic acid is contained in yeast, liver, green vegetables, fruit and meat. Because of impaired intestinal absorption, ethanol or drug interaction and dialysate losses, particularly with high flux/high efficiency dialysis [12], it is prudent to prescribe 1 mg folic acid/day to prevent deficiency. This may be insufficient to lower elevated plasma homocysteine levels as the administration of 5–10 mg/day has shown a plasma homocysteine reduction by 30–50% [3]. Indeed, the National Kidney Foundation Task Force on Cardiovascular Disease issued a report with recommendations for treatment of hyperhomocysteinaemia [13]. It was recommended that MHD patients should receive daily 5 mg folic acid, 50 mg pyridoxine and 400 µg vitamin B12, to reduce serum homocysteine levels and protect against cardiovascular disease.

Presently, all renal multivitamin formulas include folic acid, 0.8 mg (Renavit[®], Germany), 1 mg (Nephrovite[®], Dialyvite[®], USA), 3 mg (Dialyvite 3000[®], USA, Dialvit[®], Switzerland) and 5 mg (Diatx Zn[®], USA) per tablet.

B12 (cobalamin)

- **A daily supplement of 2.4 µg vitamin B12 is recommended.**

Rationale. Vitamin B12 or cobalamin, combined with the gastric intrinsic factor, are necessary factors for an optimal folate metabolism, a normal non-megaloblastic erythropoiesis and to avoid nervous system demyelination observed in pernicious anaemia. Cobalamin is found in sufficient amounts in meat, liver, seafood, milk and egg yolk. Vitamin B12 undergoes an enterohepatic cycling. Most MHD patients present plasma levels of cobalamin in the normal range, whether they receive vitamin B12 supplements or not. Administration of vitamin B12 has been shown to improve or correct nerve conduction velocity in MHD patients having low vitamin B12 plasma levels [14]. Vitamin B12, when administered for 1 mg monthly, is also efficient in decreasing serum homocysteinaemia by ~10% [15]. Since there is no clear report of vitamin B12 toxicity even for high vitamin B12 doses, i.e. 2.5 mg three times weekly [16], and because some dialysis patients have an intake below the daily requirements, a daily supplement of

vitamin B12 equal to the requirement, e.g. 2.4 µg/day, seems safe.

Presently, most but not all renal multivitamin formulas include vitamin B12, 6 µg (Nephrovite[®], Dialyvite[®], USA, Renavit[®], Germany), 12 µg (Renax[®], USA) and 1 mg (Dialyvite3000[®], USA) per tablet.

Niacin (vitamin B3, nicotinamide, nicotinic acid, vitamin PP)

- **A daily supplement of 14–16 mg niacin is recommended.**

Rationale. Niacin is contained in meat, fish, dry vegetables, coffee and tea. A deficit in niacin store results in signs of pellagra, a dermatosis associated with diarrhea and dementia, as soon as 50–60 days after a complete dietary niacin removal. However, pellagra has never been reported in a chronic dialysis patient. Niacin undergoes a rapid metabolic clearance and does not seem to be cleared by dialysis. Pharmacological niacin doses improve lipid profile by increasing serum HDL and decreasing LDL cholesterol fraction and serum triglycerides. Since many MHD patients have limited intakes of food containing niacin, it is recommended to supplement patients with the required allowance of normal adults, e.g. 14–16 mg daily.

Recently, niacin, given at about 1000 mg daily has been reported to efficiently decrease serum phosphate by 20% in hyperphosphataemic MHD patients, by inhibiting intestinal phosphate transport [17]. A mild thrombopenia was recently reported as a side effect of this treatment dose in maintenance dialysis [18]. High doses of niacin have been alternatively proposed for controlling dyslipidaemia and reduce cardiovascular risk in non-renal patients [19]. Side effects of high-dose niacin (1000–1500 mg daily) include flushes and impaired glucose metabolism [20]. Thus, high doses of niacin should be prescribed with great caution in dialysis patients, since no long-term clinical trial has been performed in these patients.

Presently, many renal multivitamin formulas include niacin, 20 mg (Nephrovite[®], Dialyvite[®], Dialyvite3000[®], Diatx Zn[®], Renax[®], USA, Renavit[®], Germany) per tablet.

Biotin (vitamin B8)

- **A daily supplement of 30 µg biotin is recommended.**

Rationale. Major sources of biotin (vitamin B8) include yeast, egg yolk, liver, soybean, mushrooms and cauliflower. Biotin deficiency may be responsible for depression, somnolence, hyperaesthesia, anorexia and dermatosis, symptoms often present to a certain extent in MHD patients. In renal patients, a decrease in intestinal biotin absorption has been reported, as well as a plasma biotin decrease during the dialysis session [3]. Furthermore, food intakes that are low in protein are also low in biotin and do not meet the minimal daily biotin requirement. An adequate biotin

intake has been proposed at 30 µg/day, and for the aforementioned reasons, it seems prudent to recommend this value also to MHD patients. Clearly, further studies are needed to better address the biotin needs in maintenance dialysis.

Presently, many renal multivitamin formulas include biotin, 150 µg (Nephrocaps[®], USA) and 300 µg (Dialyvite[®], Diatx Zn[®], Nephrovite[®], Renax[®], USA, Renavit[®], Germany) per tablet.

Pantothenic acid (vitamin B5)

- **A daily supplement of 5 mg pantothenic acid is recommended.**

Rationale. Pantothenic acid is widely spread in many food including liver, kidney, fresh vegetables and egg yolk. It plays an important role in β-oxidation, free fatty acid and amino acid oxidation and protein acylation. To date, there is no clear information on pantothenic acid stores for MHD patients. Pantothenic acid is cleared by dialysis, and although no data are yet available, newer more efficient techniques might increase pantothenate losses. Since diets low in protein may not provide the adequate daily needs (5 mg/day), it is recommended that MHD patients take a supplement of 5 mg/day. Further research is warranted on pantothenic acid dialysate losses and stores in dialysis patients.

Presently, many renal multivitamin formulas include pantothenic acid, 5 mg (Nephrocaps[®], USA) and 10 mg (Nephrovite[®], Dialyvite[®], Diatx Zn[®], Renax[®], USA, Renavit[®], Germany) per tablet.

4.1.2 Fat-soluble vitamins

Vitamin D is not considered in this section as its metabolism, effect and administration in MHD patients depend on phosphocalcic metabolism and bone status, and has been the focus of a recent set of guidelines [21].

Vitamin A (retinol)

- **A daily intake of 700–900 µg is recommended.**
- **Vitamin A supplements are not recommended.**

Rationale. Vitamin A is found in dairy products, fish oil, liver, spinach and carrots. Vitamin A is necessary for night vision and epithelium maintenance. Serum plasma levels of vitamin A are elevated in patients with chronic kidney disease. Vitamin A is not removed during MHD and deficiencies are rare and mostly related to inadequate nutritional intake. Vitamin A toxicity includes hypercalcaemia, anaemia and hypertriglyceridaemia. In order to prevent vitamin A toxicity, supplements containing larger amounts than 700–900 µg/day should not be given to MHD patients. Patients receiving total parenteral nutrition (TPN) may require vitamin A supplements, but not greater than 700–900 µg/day [3,5].

Vitamin E (alpha-tocopherol)

- **A daily supplement of 400–800 IU is recommended in secondary prevention of cardiovascular events and for preventing recurrent muscle cramps.**

Rationale. Vitamin E is a strong antioxidant and cell membrane protector. Vitamin E is mainly found in vegetable oils (corn, sunflower and soybean) and wheat germs. Vitamin E plasma levels are not influenced by the dialysis session, and no vitamin E is found in the spent dialysate. There is no decrease in vitamin E plasma levels in long-term MHD patients [22]. The potential benefits of vitamin E supplementation were addressed in a large randomized controlled trial (Secondary Prevention with Antioxidants of Cardiovascular disease in End-stage renal disease, SPACE). A total of 196 MHD patients with pre-existing cardiovascular disease were randomly assigned to either a treatment group (97 patients) receiving 800 IU vitamin E or a control group (99 patients) receiving a placebo. Patients were followed up for a median of 519 days. The primary end point was myocardial infarction, ischaemic stroke, peripheral vascular disease, unstable angina. Sixteen percent of patients on vitamin E vs 33% on placebo proceeded to a primary endpoint and 5.1% on vitamin E vs 17.2% on placebo suffered from myocardial infarction, both reductions being highly significant in favour of the use of vitamin E [23].

Vitamin E supplementation appears to be effective in reducing the incidence of leg cramps. Roca *et al.* [24] compared the effect of quinine and vitamin E in 40 patients with a history of leg cramps who were randomized to either quinine 325 mg or vitamin E 400 IU taken daily at bedtime for 2 months. Quinine and vitamin E were equally effective in reducing cramps as compared with the wash-out period, but due to potential toxicity of quinine, vitamin E should be recommended as treatment of choice [24]. As shown previously for vitamin C in the Khajehdehi *et al.* trial [10], vitamin E (400 mg daily) alone or in combination with vitamin C (250 mg daily) was able to alleviate muscle cramps significantly when patients receiving both vitamins E and C (97%) or vitamin E alone (54%) whereas only 7% of the placebo group patients improved [10].

Presently, some but not all renal multivitamin formulas include vitamin E, 30 IU (Dialyvite3000[®], USA) and 35 IU (Renax[®], USA) per tablet.

Vitamin K

- **A daily intake of 90–120 µg is recommended.**
- **There is no need for vitamin K supplementation, except in patients receiving long term antibiotic treatment or those with altered coagulant activity; a daily amount of 10 mg vitamin K may be temporarily administered.**

Rationale. Vitamin K is contained in green leaves vegetables (cabbage, spinach) and cow milk.

Vitamin K undergoes intestinal reabsorption through enterohepatic cycling, which may be reduced during oral antibiotic administration. Vitamin K (K for Koagulation in German) is essential in promoting synthesis of II, VII, IX and X coagulation factors but also of some coagulation inhibitors such as factor C, S and Z. Vitamin K is a cofactor for the γ -carboxylation of glutamate in proteins (GLA-proteins) such as the matrix GLA-protein and osteocalcin, explaining a potential role of vitamin K deficiency in patients with bone fractures. In addition, high plasma vitamin K levels have been associated with soft tissue calcifications in MHD patients and elevated serum parathormone values were found in patients with a low plasma vitamin K level [25]. The daily recommended allowance for healthy individuals is 90–120 μ g [26]. There is no evidence that MHD patients suffer from vitamin K deficiency. Patients who are treated with antibiotics for prolonged periods and who have a poor nutritional intake may benefit from a 10 mg/day vitamin K supplement. Patients receiving TPN may require 7.5 mg vitamin K per week [5].

4.2. Minerals

Phosphate (phosphorus)

- **A daily intake of 800–1000 mg phosphate is recommended.**
- **Dietary education improves phosphate control.**
- **Dietary phosphate control should not compromise protein intake.**

Rationale. Dietary phosphate intake should be restricted in MHD patients to avoid hyperphosphataemia leading to secondary hyperparathyroidism. The consequences and treatment of hyperphosphataemia are well known and have been reviewed recently in the context of the management of renal bone disease [21,27]. Foods with a high protein content may contain 12–16 mg phosphate per gram protein, with dairy products having the highest ratio. Thus, a protein intake of 80 g (optimal for a MHD patient weighing 70 kg) will bring about 1100 mg phosphate daily. Since 40–80% of the oral phosphate load will be absorbed, depending on vitamin D administration, the net phosphate gain for two days will be 800–1700 mg. Because one standard haemodialysis session can only clear 500–700 mg phosphate, this will result in a positive phosphate balance, an increase in calcium–phosphate product, an increase in serum parathyroid hormone and a greater cardiovascular risk [21]. However, compromising protein intake at the expense of phosphate restriction should be avoided. Foods high in protein but with the least amount of phosphate should preferably be prescribed through a detailed dietitian interview. Hyperphosphataemia should be treated by intensive counselling, by increasing phosphate binders and

by reviewing the dialysis regimen as appropriate. It has recently been shown in a randomized dietary intervention trial that MHD patients who received extra counselling on the phosphate content of food and a detailed report of their own phosphocalcic laboratory parameters, they reduced their serum phosphate and calcium phosphate product by 23% ($P < 0.01$ for both parameters) after 6 months of intervention [28].

More frequent dialysis sessions (e.g. short daily or long nightly schedules) have been reported in pilot studies to improve control of hyperphosphataemia despite increased protein and phosphate intake [29]. Longer duration of dialysis (t from Kt/V) also helps to improve control serum phosphate, as well as increasing the dialysis membrane surface.

Calcium

- **The total intake of elemental calcium should not exceed 2000 mg/day including calcium obtained from calcium-based phosphate binders.**

Rationale. Calcium intake may be limited due to dietary phosphate restriction (milk and dairy products). Overall, a mean food calcium intake is comprised between 500 and 800 mg/day. However, other sources of calcium include calcium-based phosphate binders, and thus the total daily intake of calcium could be much greater, leading to a positive calcium balance, vascular calcifications and episodes of hypercalcaemia. For these reasons, the total amount of oral calcium intake including calcium-based phosphate binders should not exceed 2000 mg daily, and non-calcium phosphate binders should be used if hyperparathyroidism is not controlled. The consequences and treatment of altered phosphocalcic metabolism have been extensively reviewed in recent guidelines regarding the management of renal bone disease and metabolism [21].

Sodium and fluid

- **A daily intake of no more than 80–100 mmol (2000–2300 mg) sodium or 5–6 g (75 mg/kg BW) per day of sodium chloride is recommended.**
- **Interdialytic weight gain (IDWG) should not exceed 4–4.5% of dry body weight.**

Rationale. The importance of controlling interdialytic weight gain (IDWG) by restricting dietary sodium (and fluid intake) and the preference for using lower sodium dialysate, has been described in the Haemodynamic Instability Guideline 2.1.

With progressive loss of urine output, sodium and fluid restrictions are vital to control extra cellular volume, blood pressure and to prevent excessive IDWG in anuric and oliguric MHD patients. By reducing the sodium load from diet and dialysate, the lesser urge for patients to quench their

thirst improves compliance with fluid restriction and reduces IDWG. A reduction in sodium intake to 80–100 mmol/l (5–6 g salt) in addition to lowering the dialysate sodium concentration from 140 to 135 mmol/l appears to be sufficient to suppress thirst and hence excessive weight gain. This also benefits blood pressure control and might result in the withdrawal of antihypertensive treatment in some patients [30].

The majority of dietary sodium, 70–80%, is derived from salt and mono sodium glutamate added to food at home, in restaurants and food outlets or by food manufacturers. Examples of some convenience foods are: ready to eat meals, cured meat and fish products, canned and processed foods. The salt content of some staple foods such as breakfast cereals (i.e. cornflakes), bread, butter and margarine and sandwich fillings contribute significantly to dietary sodium intake.

In anuric patients, each 8 g NaCl (140 mmol Na⁺) requires 1 l of fluid intake to maintain normal serum sodium. Dietary Na⁺ intake (mmol) may be calculated from average daily fluid weight gain (kg) × average serum Na⁺ concentration (mmol/l). An 80 kg dialysis patient with 4% IDWG, will have 12 g NaCl intake per day. Current guidelines for daily fluid intake vary from 500 to 1000 ml in addition to daily urine output to achieve an IDWG of 2–2.5 kg or 4–4.5% dry body weight. Some dialysis centres include the amount of ‘hidden’ fluid in food in fluid allowance prescriptions. Individual fluid allowances need to be adapted for patients living in warmer climates, during periods of hot weather, working in hot environments and as a result of clinical conditions (high fever). However, it is more efficient to carefully monitor salt rather than fluid intake, since as a response to salt intake, thirst will regulate the subsequent fluid ingested.

All foods that are liquid at room temperature (18–20°C) should be counted as fluid except oil and foods with a high fat or sugar content. Reducing sodium and fluid in addition to a potassium and phosphate restriction and ensuring that protein and energy intake is adequate, is difficult and a stepwise approach to educate the patient is most important. MHD patients must be advised to avoid those convenience foods that contain potassium chloride or other potassium containing additives to replace salt.

Potassium

- **In patients with a pre-dialysis serum potassium greater than 6 mmol/l, a daily intake of potassium of 50–70 mmol (1950–2730 mg) or 1 mmol/kg IBW is recommended.**

Rationale. Hyperkalaemia is a potential cause of sudden death in MHD patients. There are no warning signs and when pre-dialysis serum potassium levels approach 6 mmol/l, nutritional counselling to lower dietary potassium is indicated, in addition to Calcium Resonium[®] or Kayexalate[®]. However, other causes

for hyperkalaemia should also be investigated and corrected such as metabolic acidosis together with a review of drug therapies that contribute to hyperkalaemia such as angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers, spironolactone, β-blockers, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and other contributing drug therapies. Tissue destruction (e.g. catabolism) as a result of trauma or weight loss releases potassium from intracellular space and results in hyperkalaemia in haemodialysis patients [31].

4.3. Trace elements

Iron (Fe)

- **A daily intake of 8 mg Fe for men and 15 mg for women is recommended.**
- **Supplementary Fe should be given to all haemodialysis patients treated with an erythropoiesis-stimulating agent (ESA), to maintain adequate serum transferrin and serum ferritin levels, aimed to achieve a target haemoglobin (Hb) concentration > 110 g/l or a haematocrit > 33%, except for those receiving the iron intravenously.**

Rationale. The Institute of Medicine (USA) published the Dietary Reference Intakes (DRI) in 2001 and recommended a daily iron allowance for adults of 8 mg for men and 15 mg for women [26]. Fe deficiency is common in MHD patients and is mainly due to blood losses during dialysis, frequent blood testing, blood remaining in dialysers and gastrointestinal bleeding. Iron absorption from food and oral supplements may be impaired due to increased gastric pH levels as a result of phosphate binder and antacid use. Oral Fe supplements should be taken between meals (at least 2 h after and 1 h before a main meal) to maximize Fe absorption and should not be taken with phosphate binders. Oral Fe supplements are known to cause adverse gastrointestinal effects and compliance with drug therapy may be compromised. Indeed, most MHD patients will receive Fe supplementation, intravenously or orally, as described in detail in the updated European Best Practice Guidelines for management of anaemia in patients with chronic renal failure [27].

Zinc (Zn)

- **A daily nutritional intake of 8–12 mg of elemental zinc (Zn) for women and 10–15 mg for men is recommended.**
- **Routine zinc supplementation is not recommended.**
- **A zinc supplementation of 50 mg Zn element per day for 3–6 months should be considered in haemodialysis patients with a chronic inadequate protein/energy intake and symptoms evoking zinc deficiency (impaired taste or smell, skin fragility, impotence, peripheral neuropathy).**

Rationale. Zinc deficiency is rare in western countries since zinc is absorbed in large quantities from protein rich foods such as red meat, fish and shellfish, milk and milk products, poultry and eggs. Zinc is albumin bound and plays an important role in protein, carbohydrate, energy, nucleic acid and lipid metabolism [32]. The Institute of Medicine (USA) recommends for healthy adults a daily zinc intake of 8 mg for women and 11 mg for men [26]. In the United Kingdom, recommendations are slightly different, 7 mg for women and 9 mg for men [33]. Matson *et al.* [34] and Kalantar-Zadeh *et al.* [35] recommend 12 mg of elemental zinc for women and 15 mg for men.

Early signs of deficiency include defects in rapidly dividing tissues such as skin, intestinal mucosa and immune response, decreased taste acuity with a loss in taste buds, impotence, glucose intolerance and hyperlipidaemia. Taste and smell impairment associated with chronic uraemia contributes to anorexia leading to a reduced food intake that includes protein and may result in zinc deficiency [5]. Zinc deficiency in uraemic patients may contribute to peripheral neuropathy [36]. Oral iron supplements, calcium-based phosphate binders and corticosteroids may promote zinc deficiency. Although improvements in taste, smell, appetite, wound healing, immune response and sexual function have been reported when zinc supplements were prescribed, results were not supportive in several earlier studies. Most involved a small number of MHD patients, were of short duration whereas zinc concentration levels may vary due to different laboratory techniques. Zinc supplementation should be given for at least 3 months since shorter trials did not show expected improvements on taste [34] or immune system [36,37]. It was shown in a 3-month randomized crossover trial that zinc supplementation, 50 mg Zn element per day for 90 days significantly increased serum zinc level from low to normal and also increased nPCR and serum cholesterol [38,39]. In more observational reports, nerve conduction velocity improved with zinc supplementation [40] as well as sexual potency [41] but not all studies have confirmed this [42].

Zinc sulphate is a gastric irritant and should be taken with meals. Zn acetate, Zn aspartate and Zn chloride seem to be better tolerated even on an empty stomach [36,41]. Adding zinc to the haemodialysate may be considered if side effects associated with oral supplementation prohibit their use. During a randomized crossover study, serum zinc levels, taste acuity and nerve conduction velocity improved by adding zinc to dialysate during 12 weeks and achieving an increase in serum zinc from 10.1 ± 1.3 to $23.1 \pm 0.7 \mu\text{mol/l}$ ($N = 13.8 \pm 1.9$) [40]. Once this supplement was discontinued at the end of the 3 months supplementation, taste acuity reduced. Serum zinc levels lowered to baseline levels indicating that zinc supplementation should have been continued to maintain normal zinc levels.

Presently, some but not all renal multivitamin formulas include zinc, 15 mg (Dialyvite3000[®], USA),

20 mg (Renax[®], USA) and 50 mg (Dialyvite 3000-Zinc[®], USA) per tablet.

Selenium (Se)

- **A daily intake of 55 µg of selenium is recommended.**
- **Routine selenium supplementation is not recommended.**
- **A selenium supplementation for 3–6 months should be considered in haemodialysis patients with symptoms evoking selenium deficiency (cardiomyopathy, skeletal myopathy, thyroid dysfunction, haemolysis, dermatosis).**

Rationale. Selenium is an essential trace element leading to an adequate glutathione peroxidase (GPX) activity that protects cells from lipid peroxidation. Thyroid function regulation depends on selenium. The recommended intake for healthy males and females is 55 µg/day [26]. In case of acute oxidative stress, selenium needs may increase up to 100–150 µg/day. Intestinal absorption is thought to be 50–65% [32]. The main sources of selenium are meat, fish, fat, vegetables and cereals. However, selenium content of food depends on the selenium content of local soil on which crops have grown or animals have grazed. A severe cardiomyopathy has been reported in the region of Keshan, China, where there is an extreme lack in selenium in earth and food, leading to very low selenium intake (<15 µg/day) and low serum selenium in humans. This cardiac disease is reversed by administering a selenium supplement. Other clinical symptoms of altered selenium metabolism include skeletal muscle dystrophia, haemolysis and dermatosis.

Low serum selenium in CKD and MHD patients are not uncommon. There is no recommendation for selenium supplementation for CKD patients but if prescribed, selenium levels should be monitored closely, as selenium is excreted by the kidney and not removed by dialysis [5]. Selenium supplementation might be helpful in partially improving thyroid function in MHD patients. In a randomized control trial, Napolitano *et al.* [43] administered selenium to stable MHD patients. Ten patients received sodium selenite supplements orally, 500 µg three times weekly for the first 3 months followed by 200 µg three times weekly for the next 3 months, whereas five patients received a placebo. Selenium supplementation was well tolerated and a significant increase in serum selenium was observed as well as an improvement in thyroid function tests (i.e. a reduction in TSH) and an improvement in immune parameters in patients receiving selenium. No side effect was reported [43,44]. In a small pilot trial, Richard *et al.* [45] administered selenium intravenously as sodium selenite in six MHD patients, 50 µg at the end of the dialysis session three times weekly for the first five weeks then 100 µg for the next 15 weeks. This treatment was able to increase serum selenium levels and restore glutathione peroxidase activity to normal.

Presently, some renal multivitamin formulas include selenium, 70 µg per tablet (Dialyvite3000® and Renax®, USA).

Table 2. Recommended dietary intake and supplements of vitamins and trace elements in adult haemodialysis patients (opinion)

Vitamins	Daily recommendation
Thiamine hydrochloride (B1)	1.1–1.2 mg supplement
Riboflavin (B2)	1.1–1.3 mg supplement
Pyridoxine hydrochloride (B6)	10 mg supplement
Ascorbic Acid (C)	75–90 mg supplement
Folic Acid (B9)	1 mg supplement
Cobalamine (B12)	2.4 µg supplement
Niacin (B3, nicotinamide, nicotinic acid, PP)	14–16 mg supplement
Biotin (B8)	30 µg supplement
Pantothenic acid (B5)	5 mg supplement
Retinol (A)	700–900 µg intake (no supplement)
Alpha-tocopherol (E)	400–800 IU supplement ^a
Vitamin K	90–120 µg intake (no supplement)
<i>Minerals and Trace elements</i>	
Phosphorus	800–1000 mg intake
Calcium	2000 mg intake including calcium from phosphate binders
Sodium	2000–2300 mg intake i.e. 5–6 g sodium chloride
Potassium	50–70 mmol intake (1950–2730 mg) or 1 mmol/kg ^b
Iron	8 mg (men) and 15 mg (women) intake ^c
Zinc	10–15 mg (men) and 8–12 mg (women) intake (no supplement) ^d
Selenium	55 µg intake (no supplement) ^e

^aFor secondary prevention of cardiovascular events and muscle cramps.

^bOnly in hyperkalaemic patients, otherwise liberal intake.

^cIn case of EPO treatment, supplemental iron is to be added, either orally or parenterally.

^dIn case of malnutrition or symptoms of zinc deficiency, a trial of 50 mg Zn/day for 3–6 months could be considered (see text).

^eIn case of symptoms of zinc deficiency, a trial of selenium for 3–6 months could be considered (see text).

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Guideline 5. Treatment of malnutrition

5.1. Dietary intervention

- Malnourished haemodialysis patients should receive nutritional counselling (Evidence level III).
- In hospitalized patients counselling should be started within 3 days of referral. A daily follow-up should be performed when patients are at high nutritional risk and weekly when at low risk (Opinion).

Rationale and commentary

Regular dietary counselling is an important part of the overall nutritional management of MHD patients. A qualified dietitian is trained to apply specific counselling techniques and these are aimed at behavioural change strategies to empower the patient to make successful changes in his/her diet. A 'renal' diet is complex as the intake of several nutrients requires modification during the different stages of chronic kidney disease and once again when the mode of dialysis changes or the patient is transplanted.

Thus a MHD diet requires changes in the intake of protein and energy, sodium and fluid, potassium, calcium and phosphate and also in mineral and vitamin requirements. Early intervention during regular follow up may prevent nutritional inadequacies and could avert malnutrition.

Several investigators studied the effect of regular nutritional counselling regarding nutritional intake of MHD patients. Removing some of the reasons for inadequacies considerably improved intake without the need for nutritional supplements. Sehgal *et al.* [1] investigated barriers to protein nutrition among MHD patients in a cohort of 298 patients from 22 dialysis units. Four parameters were assessed: nutritional status (serum albumin and PNA); potential medical barriers (poor appetite, difficulty in chewing, inadequate dialysis, bioincompatible dialysis membranes and comorbidity); behavioural barriers (knowledge of the protein content of food and dietary non-compliance) and socio-economic barriers (expense of foods with a high protein content, lack of support with shopping and cooking). It was concluded that three medical factors (poor appetite, inadequate dialysis and comorbidity), two behaviour factors (lack of knowledge and low interdialytic weight gain, IDWG) and one socio-economic factor (need for help with shopping and cooking) were independently associated with poor nutritional intake of MHD patients. Leon *et al.* [2] showed that frequent nutritional counselling by trained dietitians and tactfully removing existing barriers to food optimizes dietary protein and energy intake that leads to improved serum albumin, even in the presence of chronic inflammation.

Akpele and coll. compared in a pilot study in 40 patients on haemodialysis for at least 6 months intensive dietary counselling *vs* the prescription of nutritional supplements [3]. The difference in rate of change in serum albumin (3.5 g/dl at onset) was measured [3]. The dietary goal was 1.2 g protein/kg IBW/day and 30–35 kcal/kg IBW/day. Twenty-six patients received nutritional supplements and 14 dietary counselling only. Patients receiving intensive counselling showed greater benefit than those receiving supplements. Indeed, albumin concentrations rose by 0.06 g/dl/month in the non-supplemented group *vs* 0.04 g/dl/month in the supplemented group [3]. A possible reason for this smaller change in the supplemented group was non-compliance and ageusia, anorexia, gastro intestinal side effects (diarrhoea), fear of weight gain, taste fatigue and preference for whole foods. Sharma *et al.* [4] surveyed 106 Indian MHD patients and found that patient's diets changed over time on dialysis to a lower protein and energy intake than originally prescribed. Intakes were also compromised on dialysis days also adding to an increasingly poorer nutrient intake [4]. Dietary counselling and continuous monitoring therefore play an important role in malnutrition prevention. Steiber *et al.* [5] analysed nutritional intakes of CKD patients on admission in a general hospital. Less than 25% of patients with chronic renal failure (pre-dialysis, HD and CPD) achieved a 75% intake of the recommended diets. By knowing factors that can predict poor oral intake at referral, patients at risk could be identified earlier and their nutritional loss during hospitalization decreased. Similarly, it was shown that MHD patients only received 80% or less of recommended intake when hospitalized over 1 week [6]. Thus, it is now clear that malnutrition can start or deteriorate in hospital. Early aggressive intervention from the start of hospitalization should be initiated within 3 days of referral with a daily follow up for high and weekly follow up for low risk patients.

5.2. Oral supplements and enteral feeding

- Nutritional supplements should be prescribed if nutritional counselling does not achieve an increase in nutrient intake to a level that covers minimum recommendation (see Guideline 3) (Evidence level III).
- Products specifically formulated for dialysis patients should be prescribed in preference to standard supplements for non-renal patients (Evidence level III).
- Enteral tube [nasogastric or percutaneous entero-gastrostomy (PEG)] feeding using disease specific formulas for dialysis patients should be prescribed if attempts to increase dietary intake with oral supplements fail and nutritional status does not improve (Evidence level IV).

Rationale

The development of several feeding methods such as PEG tube feeding and Intradialytic Parenteral Nutrition (IDPN) and the development of disease-specific commercial products for oral (flavoured), enteral (no added flavour) and parenteral feeding have greatly modified the application of nutritional support for MHD patients during the past years. Oral or enteral nutritional support is less expensive than parenteral nutrition. Standard products for oral and enteral nutritional support contain a mixture of whole protein and/or amino acids, glucose polymers, fat components and added vitamins, minerals (including phosphate) and trace elements. It is preferable to use specific formulated products for dialysis patients containing more protein and energy (1.5–2.0 kcal/ml) and less potassium and phosphate if patients are hyperphosphataemic and/or hyperkalaemic [7]. Some of the oral supplements contain a non-sweet glucose polymer without addition of other nutrients or flavours. These are presented as a powder or as a concentrated liquid and are suitable to be added to food and drinks to improve energy intake without significantly altering the taste.

Few clinical trials have been conducted about the provision of oral nutritional support to dialysis patients [7] and are limited in patient number and by short duration. Results have been affected due to early withdrawal from the trials when patients experienced side effects such as nausea or diarrhoea and when non-compliant with prescribed amount of nutritional supplement(s) [3]. Using essential amino acid tablets (15 tablets daily for 3 months), Eustace *et al.* [8] reported non-compliance as high as 50% at 3 months of oral supplement, underlining the necessity for more research on supplements specifically designed for MHD patients.

A recent systematic review and meta-analysis of 18 studies (five randomized and 13 non-randomized controlled trials) on the use of multi-nutrient oral supplements and tube feeding in MHD patients by Stratton *et al.* [7] showed that oral and enteral nutritional support improves protein and energy intake, increases serum albumin concentrations by 0.23 g/dl ($P < 0.05$) and improves total energy intake. There is still insufficient data on the clinical effect on MHD patients and specifically malnourished patients to determine from which regimen they would benefit most.

Clinical benefits of oral nutritional supplements. A number of studies have investigated the effect of oral supplements on the nutritional parameters of MHD patients [3,8–15]. Ivarsen *et al.* [15] and Eustace *et al.* [8] studied the effect of amino acid supplements on albumin changes in MHD patients. Providing 19 stable, well-dialysed and well-nourished MHD patients a daily protein supplement containing 7.8 g amino acids (4.8 g were essential) for 3 months in addition to their usual MHD diet,

no improvement in nutritional parameters was shown, although intracellular amino acid concentration improved significantly [15]. In a randomized double blind trial, Eustace *et al.* [8] studied the benefits of a supplement containing a daily total of 10.8 g essential amino acids (EAA) in 29 MHD and 19 peritoneal dialysis (PD) patients with a mean three months pre-study serum albumin of 3.8 g/dl or less. Patients were taking five tablets (e.g. 3.6 g EAA), three times daily with food for 3 months. Serum albumin concentrations increased by 0.22 ± 0.09 g/dl ($P=0.02$) in MHD patients but did not change significantly in the PD group. Patients with lower serum albumin concentrations improved more. No improvement was seen in serum amino acid concentrations.

Non-compliance with prescribed supplements and gastrointestinal side effects can affect the outcome of oral nutritional support as shown by Akpele *et al.* [3]. In this pilot study of 41 MHD patients, 26 patients were given a commercial renal-specific nutritional supplement in addition to their regular dietary intake for an average of 6–7 months. The expected increase in protein and energy intake however was not achieved and several factors contributed to the lack of compliance such as taste impairment, anorexia and gastrointestinal side effects such as nausea, diarrhoea, fear of weight gain, taste fatigue and preference to whole food. These investigators concluded that patients may benefit from a choice in a selection of different nutritional products with different consistency and flavour to boost their protein and energy intake [3]. Changing the timing of taking the prescribed nutritional supplement can improve compliance. Cockram *et al.* [11] compared the gastrointestinal symptoms, bowel habits, routine blood chemistries, urea kinetics and nPNA in 79 patients over a three week period using three products: one standard and two special formulas (one with and one without a fructooligosaccharide – FOS) developed for renal patients. The investigators found that the two specialized formulas resulted in lower serum phosphate levels and a decrease in the calcium–phosphate product. Patients taking the product containing FOS had less constipation [11].

Caglar *et al.* [10] studied 85 malnourished MHD patients who were given a commercial nutritional supplement containing 475 kcal and 16.6 g protein for oral use on haemodialysis days to ensure compliance, for a period of 9 months. Serum albumin concentration rose significantly from 3.33 ± 0.32 to 3.65 ± 0.26 mg/dl ($P=0.002$) during 6 months of supplementation. The changes in BMI (from 25.8 ± 6.1 to 27.1 ± 5.4) and estimated dry body weight (from 73.1 ± 15.3 to 76.1 ± 16.2 kg) were not statistically significant. The mean SGA score improved by 14% from baseline by the end of the study ($P=0.02$) [10].

The effect of two different oral nutritional supplements both providing daily an additional 16 g protein and 500 kcal on improving body weight and serum albumin levels was studied by Sharma *et al.* [14]. Forty seven malnourished MHD patients in India with a BMI of less than 20 and a serum albumin

concentration of less than 40 g/l were selected and 40 completed this trial after 1 month of thrice weekly dialysis. Twenty-six patients received oral supplements containing 16 g protein and 500 kcal either as a commercial supplement (CS) or a low cost home made blend (HP Blend) after the dialysis session was completed, for 1 month [14]. Patients were also prescribed a diet with 1.2 g protein and 35–45 kcal/kg BW/day followed by regular counselling. The control group received counselling only. A significant improvement in serum albumin concentration ($P=0.03$) was seen in the supplemented HP Blend and the CS group even after 1 month compared with the control group. The HP Blend and control group gained the same amount of dry weight (2 kg). Patients however were young, without comorbidities and with baseline BMIs of 17.9 or less [14]. Kuhlman *et al.* [12] showed in a small and short study that specific protein and energy supplements for CKD patients taken as a sip feed in addition to a prescribed MHD diet with a total intake of 1.5 g/kg protein and 45 kcal/kg/day, resulted in a sustained weight gain of 1.2 ± 0.4 kg during a 3-month period in underweight patients with a mean BMI of 17.6.

Adding a glucose polymer daily to the regular MHD diet was investigated by Allman *et al.* [9] and Milano *et al.* [13]. Both investigators reported the absence of gastrointestinal side effects and the products were well tolerated. In the first trial, Allman *et al.* randomly prescribed 100–150 g glucose polymer equivalent to 400–600 kcal/day to 9 patients in addition to their usual diet (protein intake: 1.16 ± 0.28 g/kg and energy: 30 ± 10 kcal/kg) for 6 months *vs* no supplement in the control group. The supplemented patients gained 3.1 ± 2.3 kg ($P < 0.005$), 1.8 kg as body fat and 1.3 kg as lean body mass indicated by changes in anthropometry. BMI rose from 21.3 to 22.9 and this weight gain was maintained 6 months after stopping the supplement [9]. In the second trial, Milano *et al.* [13] studied the effect of a 100 g glucose polymer supplement (380 kcal) daily in 21 MHD patients in addition to their usual diet. This amount increased their energy intake to at least 34 kcal/kg/day. After 6 months of supplement, their mean weight increased by 2.4 kg (range 0.6–6.3 kg) but assessed by anthropometry, this weight gain appeared to be predominantly fat. This gain was maintained for 6 months after cessation of the supplement [13].

Clinical benefits of enteral tube feeding. If the provision of oral supplements in addition to intensive counselling is unsuccessful, tube feeding should be proposed. Renal specific formulas may be used to maximize protein and energy supply, while controlling excessive amounts of fluid, phosphate, potassium and unnecessary vitamins usually contained in standard feed products.

Sayce *et al.* [16] analysed serum albumin and anthropometry in eight malnourished MHD outpatients who received PEG feeding for 3–15 months. Energy dense renal formula tube feeds were prescribed based on

individual requirements. The feed was administered as a bolus or by means of continuous pump feeding overnight. Two anuric patients required changes in their feeding regimens due to fluid overload. The amount of tube feed was reduced even further during the 3-day weekend interval when fluid overload was likely to occur. After 3 months, mean dry weight increased from a mean of 43.0 to 48.3 kg ($P=0.01$). Mid upper arm circumference increased from 20.2 to 24.8 cm ($P=0.02$) and triceps skinfold thickness from 17.7 to 19.8 mm ($P=0.03$). Serum albumin rose from 29.5 to 36.5 g/l ($P=0.01$). It was concluded that home enteral feeding using PEG access is effective and safe in improving and maintaining nutritional status in malnourished MHD patients. Frequent monitoring with provision of additional support throughout the feeding period is paramount.

Holley *et al.* [17] performed a retrospective analysis of a small cohort of 10 MHD patients (mean age 66 years) who received nasogastric or PEG enteral feeding for 1–36 months. Seven out of ten patients had suffered a cerebrovascular accident; two patients were in intensive care units. In five patients, tube feeding was supplementary to a normal nutrition and provided 50% of protein and energy of their requirements to achieve a protein intake of 1.0–1.3 g protein/kg BW and 30–35 kcal/kg per day. Serum albumin rose from 2.8 to 3.3 g/dl ($P=0.04$) by the end of the feeding period, but no significant weight gain was reported. Eight out of ten patients had at least one episode of hypophosphataemia (<2.0 mg/dl in four of the eight patients) which was resolved by replacing the regimen from the renal to a standard formula and by using phosphate supplements [17]. Although retrospective and of limited size, these results should encourage well designed prospective studies in MHD patients.

Recommendations for further research

- What is the optimal composition of oral supplements (taste, concentration, electrolyte composition, vitamin and trace content)?
- What is the optimal schedule and delivery rate of oral and enteral supplements?
- What are the indications, optimal duration and complications of PEG in MHD patients?
- Is it possible to improve patient's appetite with specific oral supplements?

5.3. Intradialytic parenteral nutrition

- When intensive dietary support, oral supplements and enteral nutrition have failed, a course of parenteral nutrition is recommended (Evidence level IV).
- Intradialytic parenteral nutrition (IDPN) is recommended in malnourished patients only if spontaneous nutrient intake is >20 kcal/kg IBW and 0.8 g protein/kg IBW/day. Otherwise, total parenteral nutrition infused over the entire day is indicated (Opinion).

Rationale and commentary

There are many speculative reasons that intravenous nutrition may improve patient's nutritional status. In the particular case of maintenance dialysis, the fact that patients will be referred three times weekly with vascular access allowing additional nutrient infusion theoretically simplifies applicability, delivery and compliance to parenteral nutrition. On the other hand, time to exposure for nutritional support is rather short (standard 10–15 h weekly) as compared with total parenteral nutritional support used in intensive care units or at home for patients with intestinal failure. Hence, non-renal nutritionists often question the efficacy of IDPN. In addition, IDPN is more expensive than any oral or enteral nutrition. The key questions are: do patients have a spontaneous intake great enough to supplement through a limited delivery related to the intermittent pattern of intradialytic parenteral nutrition (e.g. greater than 20 kcal and 0.8 g protein/kg IBW/day), and how will IDPN interfere with spontaneous patient's intake throughout metabolic and appetite alterations?

Several retrospective analyses, prospective trials and reviews have addressed the various aspects of IDPN [18–28]. From a metabolic point of view, one haemodialysis session dramatically decreases the plasma amino acids and as a consequence, blunts intracellular muscle protein synthesis. In addition, in response to the rapid plasma amino acid decrease at the start of the haemodialysis session, muscle proteolysis occurs in order to maintain an adequate plasma and cellular amino acid concentration [29]. These events result in a clear catabolic state at the end of the dialysis session [30–32]. In the long term these catabolic modifications may lead to muscle wasting. Feeding patients by parenteral route during the dialysis session has been shown to revert this acute catabolic state by maintaining a normal plasma amino acid concentration [30]. Recently, Pupim *et al.* [33] reported that a brief 15 min cycling exercise at the beginning of the dialysis session dramatically improved the anabolic effect of the IDPN supplement.

However, it is less clear if these beneficial effects are associated with long-term improvement in patient's nutritional status and morbi-mortality. Indeed, protein metabolism may be modified during the non-dialysis days, and to some extent, compensate for the dialysis-induced acute catabolic state. In more prolonged surveys, improvement in serum albumin [22,24] and patient's spontaneous intake has been reported [23,24,27] but few studies were adequately designed and to date, evidence is low. Thus, long-term randomized studies should address the potential effect of IDPN on nutritional status and morbi-mortality of MHD patients. The ongoing Fines study, the largest prospective randomized controlled trial addressing the efficacy on oral and intradialytic nutritional support in malnourished MHD patients

will provide evidence for indication and limits of nutritional support in these patients [18].

5.4. Anabolic agents

- In case of severe malnutrition resistant to optimal nutritional intervention, a course of androgens should be considered in MHD patients for three to 6 months (Evidence level II).
- Androgens should be administered weekly or bimonthly (Evidence level II).
- Patients should be monitored at regular intervals for side effects (hirsutism, voice change, priapism, alteration in plasma lipids, liver tests and prostatic markers) (Evidence level II).
- Patients with a known prostate cancer should not receive androgens (Evidence level II).

Rationale

In healthy adults the body protein mass is maintained at equilibrium by a subtle tuning between anabolism and catabolism that is regulated through independent signals. Among anabolic factors (which promote growth in childhood, and maintenance of protein mass in adults), growth hormone (GH) and insulin-like growth factor (IGF)-1 have been studied in-depth in many disorders, including CKD. Many acute administration studies and most mid-term (3–6 months) treatments with recombinant GH have reported beneficial metabolic, nutritional and body composition changes [34–45]. Long-term administration of recombinant GH has not been studied in CKD adults, and potential side-effects may occur, such as hyperglycaemia, hypertriglyceridaemia, and sodium retention. Recombinant GH treatment is only approved in short stature CKD children and helps to catch-up growth. However, GH is not currently approved in adult MHD patients. Recombinant IGF-1, which also exerts acute anabolic responses in malnourished dialysis patients [46], is only approved for the specific Laron nanism, a GH receptor deficient disease. Thus, except for pituitary insufficiency, a treatment by recombinant GH to improve nutritional status cannot yet be proposed to adult dialysis patients.

Androgens are well-known anabolic compounds. It should be emphasized that with age and CKD, a relative androgen insufficiency may be present, underlining a potential cause for muscle loss in males. Recently, it has been reported that non-renal male patients with coronary disease and low plasma testosterone levels did benefit from low-dose transdermal testosterone treatment, which improved their coronary symptoms [47]. In elderly patients without known kidney disease, a 6-month administration of low doses of testosterone to reach supranormal plasma levels significantly increased muscle mass and strength [48]. In kidney patients, androgens have

been largely utilized before the era of erythropoietin to correct anaemia and reduce the number of blood transfusions. However, since the release of recombinant EPO in the 1990s, androgens were left apart and it is only since recently that their anabolic properties were rediscovered [48–54]. In a randomized controlled trial, Johansen *et al.* [52] assessed body composition and strength while administering nandrolone decanoate, 100 mg intramuscularly weekly for 6 months in 29 MHD patients. Body composition was monitored by dual energy X-ray absorptiometry and functional status by treadmill, walking, and stair-climbing times. Nandrolone decanoate induced a 4.5 kg lean body mass gain ($P < 0.01$) and a fat loss of 2.4 kg ($P < 0.01$) from baseline. There was a reduction in reported symptoms of fatigue and a decrease in walking and stair climbing times in the nandrolone group. No changes in serum cholesterol or triglycerides were reported in either group. Dose adjustment was done in two women who complained of acne and amenorrhea [52].

In elderly MHD patients receiving EPO, Gascon *et al.* [54] administered nandrolone decanoate, 200 mg intramuscularly weekly for 6 months in 14 patients who were withdrawn from EPO, whereas 19 patients continued to receive regular EPO treatment. Patients receiving nandrolone gained weight (from 68.2 ± 9.1 to 70.3 ± 8.6 kg; $P < 0.05$) and muscle mass ($P < 0.05$) [54]. Haemoglobin improved from 9.6 ± 1.0 to 11.0 ± 1.4 g/dl ($P < 0.01$) in the nandrolone group, whereas no change was observed in the EPO group who received 6000 ± 3900 IU EPO weekly. Serum albumin decreased from 4.0 ± 0.3 to 3.6 ± 0.5 g/dl ($P < 0.05$) in the EPO group, whereas it did not change in the nandrolone group. During nandrolone treatment, although serum triglycerides increased from 144 ± 78 to 180 ± 76 mg/dl ($P < 0.05$) and HDL-cholesterol decreased from 39 ± 13 to 32 ± 11 ($P < 0.05$), Lp(a), a strong predictor of cardiovascular risk, decreased from 26 ± 23 to 9 ± 8 mg/dl ($P < 0.005$) [54]. Thus, it is not clear in MHD patients if androgens impair lipid metabolism to the point of increasing long-term cardiovascular risk, which should be weighted against the risk of rapidly worsening malnutrition.

In another retrospective study by Pai and colleagues [50] in which five women received 25 mg nandrolone decanoate intramuscularly weekly for 3 months, no side effect was reported. Serum albumin significantly rose from 29 to 33 g/l ($P < 0.05$) in the study of Pai *et al.* [50] and from 32 to 38 g/l ($P < 0.001$) in the prospective randomized trial reported by Navarro and colleagues [51]. The dose of nandrolone administered in these studies ranged from 100 mg twice monthly for 3 months to 200 mg weekly for 6 months. Potential side effects include voice change and hirsutism in women, prostatic markers in men and abnormal liver tests and change in lipid metabolism in all and regular follow-up should be done accordingly [55,56]. Thus, in moderate

amounts for 3–6 months, nandrolone improved body composition in MHD patients.

Recommendation for further research

- Larger randomized controlled trials of androgens administration should be performed in various degrees of malnutrition in MHD patients, in order to characterize a likely dose-response, the optimal duration and frequency of administration and to monitor potential side-effects.
- Test the efficacy of a combined intervention of androgens and exercise training on body composition and nutritional status of malnourished MHD patients
- Measure the effects of a combined intervention by androgens and supplemental nutrition (either oral, enteral or parenteral) on body composition and nutritional status of malnourished MHD patients

5.5. Other interventions: daily dialysis

- A 6–12 month trial of daily dialysis (either short daily or long nocturnal) should be considered as a rescue therapy in unstable patients undergoing difficult haemodialysis sessions with symptoms of malnutrition or malnourished patients with poor appetite after a negative nutritional work-out (Opinion).

Rationale

Since almost 10 years, daily haemodialysis pilot trials in Europe and North America have reported nutritional and metabolic effects in MHD patients [57–73]. Different schedules as well as durations have been proposed, such as six 2-h morning sessions to seven 8-h slow nocturnal sessions weekly. Interestingly, although nutrition was not the primary cause for enrolling patients in these programs, most reported unexpected improvements in appetite, clinical and biological nutritional parameters.

Table 3 reports the change in serum albumin before and after switching from standard haemodialysis thrice weekly to daily dialysis. The improvement appeared greater in studies in which patients disclosed lower albumin levels, except for one [66]. In studies where nutritional status and dietary intake were followed, increase in food intake was best explained by an increase in well-being, a reduced interdialytic weight gain, a decrease in phosphate binders and Kayexalate[®], which are known to decrease appetite [61]. Another possible explanation, yet unproved, could be a better clearance of catabolic molecules and/or anorectic compounds. Thus, daily dialysis allows freeing patients from dietary restrictions and, at least for some months, may be viewed as a rescue therapy in malnutrition states.

Table 3. Serum albumin level before and at the end of daily dialysis programs in pilot maintenance dialysis adult patients trials (SDHD: short daily haemodialysis; NHHD: nocturnal home haemodialysis)

Reference	Treatment	Nb Patients	S. albumin (g/l)	
			At start	At the end
Woods <i>et al.</i> [67]	SDHD	72	39	43.5
Buonocristiani <i>et al.</i> [68]	SDHD	50	39	44
Pinciaroli [69]	SDHD	22	35	42.6
Kooistra and Vos [70]	SDHD	13	42.2	43.2
Galland <i>et al.</i> [61]	SDHD	10	39	42
Lugon <i>et al.</i> [71]	SDHD	5	40	43
Pierratos <i>et al.</i> [57]	NHHD	12	41.2	41.4
McPhatter <i>et al.</i> [72]	NHHD	9	34	41
O'Sullivan <i>et al.</i> [66]	NHHD	5	36.3	36.8
Cacho <i>et al.</i> [73]	NHHD	5	43.0	43.8

Whether those nutritional changes are beneficial over the long term is not known and should be the subject to future well-designed randomized trials. Indeed, one recent systematic review on the benefits of daily nocturnal haemodialysis, although clearly showing improved blood pressure and left ventricular hypertrophy, did report mixed effects on quality of life, anaemia control and phosphocalcic metabolism [65]. Authors asked for harder end-point events such as mortality or cardiovascular morbidity before this strategy could be more largely diffused.

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Guideline 6. Metabolic acidosis

- Mid-week predialysis serum bicarbonate levels should be maintained at 20–22 mmol/l (Evidence level III).
- In patients with venous predialysis bicarbonate persistently <20 mmol/l, oral supplementation with sodium bicarbonate and/or increasing dialysate concentration to 40 mmol/l should be used to correct metabolic acidosis (Evidence level III).

Rationale

In two epidemiological studies a U-shape relationship between serum bicarbonate levels and mortality has been demonstrated in haemodialysis patients [1,2]. Lowrie *et al.* [1] reported from a retrospective analysis in over 12 000 haemodialysis patients an increased risk of dying if serum bicarbonate levels were <17.5 or >25 mmol/l. Recently, this was confirmed in the DOPPS study, in which a rise in mortality was present if predialysis bicarbonate level was <17 or >27 mmol/l [2]. In the latter study, it was demonstrated that serum bicarbonate levels between 20.1 and 21.0 mmol/l faced the lowest risk for mortality and levels of 21.1–22.0 the lowest risk of hospitalization. From these epidemiological data it can be concluded that predialysis serum bicarbonate levels of 20–22 mmol/l seem to be optimal.

Although in a number of studies the effect of metabolic acidosis on nutritional status in haemodialysis patients has been investigated, their outcome is inconclusive as only a small number of patients were investigated, the follow-up was short and few randomized prospective trials are available. In a single-blind crossover study design, Williams *et al.* [3] demonstrated that 27% of patients had metabolic acidosis defined as pH < 7.36 when treated with a 30 mmol/l bicarbonate dialysis solution. When the bicarbonate content of the dialysate was increased to 40 mmol/l, all patients had a pH > 7.36 which appeared to be associated with a rise in triceps skinfold thickness but no change in serum albumin or other nutritional parameters. When using a 40 mmol/l bicarbonate dialysis solution, it seems prudent to monitor post-dialysis venous bicarbonate to avoid post-dialytic alkalaemia.

In two small prospective studies, it could be demonstrated in haemodialysis patients [4] and patients with chronic renal failure [5] that metabolic acidosis (serum bicarbonate levels <21 mmol/l) could be corrected by oral sodium bicarbonate supplementation (serum bicarbonate levels in both studies after treatment >24 mmol/l). This resulted in a rise in serum albumin levels, but no other changes in nutritional parameters. In both studies it was shown that after correction of metabolic acidosis nPNA decreased. Verove *et al.* [5] did not find a difference in daily protein intake. Likewise, Movilli *et al.* did not find a change in protein intake [6] or urea kinetics and

serum proteins [4] after the correction of metabolic acidosis. In a longitudinal observational study of 248 patients it was also observed that correction of metabolic acidosis by increasing the dialysate bicarbonate concentration to 39 mmol/l resulted in a fall in MPNA whereas serum albumin and SGA did not change [7]. Thus, several authors have concluded that in moderate to severe metabolic acidosis protein catabolism is present resulting in a rise in MPNA which then does not reflect daily protein intake only [4–8]. The existence of increased protein turnover in acidotic haemodialysis patients was indeed shown by studies with radiolabelled leucine [9]. Likewise, it was demonstrated that net daily acid gain was higher in acidotic haemodialysis patients [10]. Uribarri *et al.* [11] found in the HEMO study a negative correlation between serum total carbon dioxide levels and MPNA, and concluded that this could be attributed to a high protein intake in the patients with more severe metabolic acidosis as there were no signs of abnormal nutritional parameters in these patients. Thus, in patients with persistent metabolic acidosis protein intake may be assessed to see whether a high protein intake could contribute to the acidosis.

In one randomized prospective study, treatment of acidotic haemodialysis patients with oral sodium bicarbonate and increasing the bicarbonate dialysate concentration to 40 mmol/l caused a rise in serum bicarbonate levels without any effect on serum albumin and other nutritional parameters [12]. In this study, however, oral supplementation and increasing dialysate bicarbonate only resulted in a rise of serum bicarbonate levels to 20 mmol/l, which could be too low to see positive effects on nutritional outcome. Kooman *et al.* [13] demonstrated in acidotic haemodialysis patients that oral sodium bicarbonate supplementation resolved metabolic acidosis, caused a rise in serum branched-chain amino acids but did not affect nutritional parameters. Similar findings have been obtained in children [14].

In summary, it may be concluded that correction of metabolic acidosis to serum bicarbonate levels at around 20–22 mmol/l should be aimed for to reduce the risk of mortality and morbidity, to increase serum albumin levels and to reduce protein catabolism.

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Appendices

Formulas (body weight, nPNA, dialysis dose, residual renal function)

Body weight: definitions

BW: body weight—should be assessed in patients wearing stocking feet and light indoor clothing with accurate scales, calibrated on a regular basis. Ask the patient to remove coat, jacket and heavy objects such as coins, keys, whichever is appropriate.

ABW: actual body weight—the patient's present body weight at the time of the observation.

SBW: standard body weight—normal weight of healthy Americans of similar sex, age, height and skeletal frame size, obtained through the NHANES II Tables [1].

USB: usual body weight—the patient's weight obtained through history or previous measurements, considered to be stable over time.

efBW: oedema free body weight, corresponding to 'dry weight'—obtained post-dialysis in HD patients

based on clinical judgement whether the patient still presents clinical oedema.

AefBW: adjusted oedema-free body weight—should be used in order to calculate the optimal dietary intake of protein and energy. It may avoid recommendations for too large intakes that may induce overproduction of waste products increasing uraemic symptoms. When patient’s body weight will improve towards standard body weight value, adjustment of body weight will not be necessary anymore.

$$\text{AefBW} = \text{efBW} + (\text{SBW} - \text{efBW}) \times 0.25$$

where SBW obtained from NHANES II Tables [1].

Height

Height should be measured as follows: ask the patient to remove shoes, to stand straight with feet together, buttocks, shoulder blades and head against the measuring device or wall and looking straight ahead. The measuring device will indicate length in meters/centimetres.

The practitioner should not depend on self-reporting as patients tend to overestimate height which decreases with advancing age.

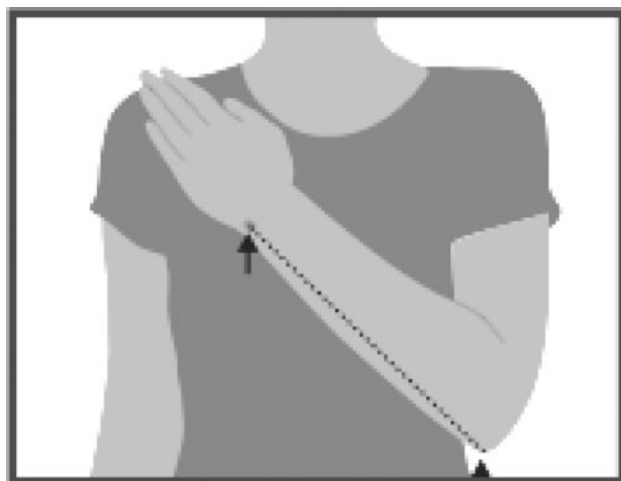


Fig. 1. Estimating height from ulna length (permission from MAG BAPEN, www.bapen.org.uk).

Source: Malnutrition Advisory Group (MAG) British Association of Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition (BAPEN), 2003 (www.bapen.org).

Estimating height in elderly and physically disabled patients [2]

If possible use recent documented (i.e. passport details) or self reported height, although patients tend to overestimate height which decreases with advancing age.

Alternative height measurements

Length forearm (ulna), knee height and arm demispan. In older people, the measurement of height to calculate BMI does not take into account bone loss (osteoporosis) that results in reduced height. Using alternative measurements such as knee height compensates for age-related changes.

Arm demispan can be used for people with curvatures of the spine, with infirmity and confusion.

Length of forearm (ulna) (Fig. 1)

- Ask the patient to bend the left arm if possible, palm across the chest, fingers pointing to opposite shoulder.
- Using a tape measure, measure the length in centimeters to the nearest 0.5cm between the point of the elbow (olecranon) and the mid-point of the prominent bone of the wrist (styloid process).
- Use Table 1 to convert ulna length (cm) to height (m).

Knee height (Fig. 2)

- Measure left leg if possible.
- The patient should sit on a chair, without shoes, with knee at a right angle.
- Hold tape measure between 3rd and 4th finger with zero reading underneath fingers.
- Place your hand flat across the patient’s thigh, about 4cm behind the front of the knee.
- Extend the tape measure straight down the side of the leg in line with the bony prominence at the ankle (lateral malleolus) to the base of the heel. Measure to the nearest 0.5cm.
- Note the length and use Table 2 to convert knee height (cm) to height (m).

Demispan (Fig. 3). Demispan should not be used in patients with severe or obvious curvature of the spine (kyphosis or scoliosis).

Table 1. Estimating height from ulna length (permission from MAG BAPEN, www.bapen.org.uk)

HEIGHT (m)	Men (<65 years)	1.94	1.93	1.91	1.89	1.87	1.85	1.84	1.82	1.80	1.78	1.76	1.75	1.73	1.71
	Men (>65 years)	1.87	1.86	1.84	1.82	1.81	1.79	1.78	1.76	1.75	1.73	1.71	1.70	1.68	1.67
	Ulna length (cm)	32.0	31.5	31.0	30.5	30.0	29.5	29.0	28.5	28.0	27.5	27.0	26.5	26.0	25.5
HEIGHT (m)	Women (<65 years)	1.84	1.83	1.81	1.80	1.79	1.77	1.76	1.75	1.73	1.72	1.70	1.69	1.68	1.66
	Women (>65 years)	1.84	1.83	1.81	1.79	1.78	1.76	1.75	1.73	1.71	1.70	1.68	1.66	1.65	1.63
HEIGHT (m)	Men (<65 years)	1.69	1.67	1.66	1.64	1.62	1.60	1.58	1.57	1.55	1.53	1.51	1.49	1.48	1.46
	Men (>65 years)	1.65	1.63	1.62	1.60	1.59	1.57	1.56	1.54	1.52	1.51	1.49	1.48	1.46	1.45
	Ulna length (cm)	25.0	24.5	24.0	23.5	23.0	22.5	22.0	21.5	21.0	20.5	20.0	19.5	19.0	18.5
HEIGHT (m)	Women (<65 years)	1.65	1.63	1.62	1.61	1.59	1.58	1.56	1.55	1.54	1.52	1.51	1.50	1.48	1.47
	Women (>65 years)	1.61	1.60	1.58	1.56	1.55	1.53	1.52	1.50	1.48	1.47	1.45	1.44	1.42	1.40

For bed bound patients, those with severe disabilities and those with kyphosis or scoliosis, it is preferable to use forearm (ulna) length to estimate height.

- The patient should stand as this makes taking the measurement easier.
- Locate and mark the mid-point of the sternal notch (V at the base of the neck).
- Ask the patient to raise the right arm until it is horizontal with the shoulder (give assistance if necessary; make sure the wrist is straight).

- Place a tape measure between the middle and ring finger of the patient's right hand, with zero at the base of the fingers.
- Extend the tape measure along the length of the arm to the mid-point of the sternal notch and note the measurement to the nearest 0.5 cm. Use Table 3 to convert demispan length to height (m).

Ideal body weight estimation (Tables 4 and 5).



Fig. 2. Estimating height from knee height (permission from MAG BAPEN, www.bapen.org.uk).
 Source: Malnutrition Advisory Group (MAG) British Association of Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition (BAPEN), 2003 (www.bapen.org).

Body mass index (BMI). BMI is calculated from the weight (kg) divided by the square of the height (m). BMI of maintenance dialysis patients should be maintained in the upper 50th percentile (BMI for men and women of at least approximately 23.6 and 24.0 kg/m²)

The World Health Organization describes the condition of low BMI as thinness which is divided into three grades:

- Grade 1: BMI 17.0–18.49 (mild thinness)
- Grade 2: BMI 16.0–16.99 (moderate thinness)
- Grade 3: BMI < 16.0 (severe thinness)

The Malnutrition Advisory Group (MAG), a standing committee of the British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition [2] has recommended

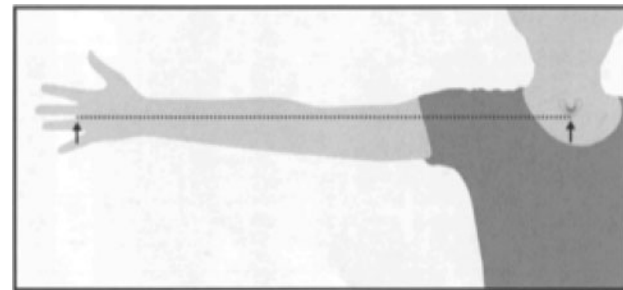


Fig. 3. Estimating height using demispan (permission from MAG BAPEN, www.bapen.org.uk).
 Source: Malnutrition Advisory Group (MAG) British Association of Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition (BAPEN), 2003 (www.bapen.org).

Table 2. Estimating height (in meter) from knee height (permission from MAG BAPEN, www.bapen.org.uk)

Men (18–59 years)	1.94	1.93	1.92	1.91	1.90	1.89	1.88	1.87	1.865	1.86	1.85	1.84	1.83	1.82	1.81
Men (60–90 years)	1.94	1.93	1.92	1.91	1.90	1.89	1.88	1.87	1.86	1.85	1.84	1.83	1.82	1.81	1.80
Knee height (cm)	65	64.5	64	63.5	63	62.5	62	61.5	61	60.5	60	59.5	59	58.5	58
Women (18–59 years)	1.89	1.88	1.875	1.87	1.86	1.85	1.84	1.83	1.82	1.81	1.80	1.79	1.78	1.77	1.76
Women (60–90 years)	1.86	1.85	1.84	1.835	1.83	1.82	1.81	1.80	1.79	1.78	1.77	1.76	1.75	1.74	1.73
Men (18–59 years)	1.80	1.79	1.78	1.77	1.76	1.75	1.74	1.73	1.72	1.71	1.705	1.70	1.69	1.68	1.67
Men (60–90 years)	1.79	1.78	1.77	1.76	1.74	1.73	1.72	1.71	1.70	1.69	1.68	1.67	1.66	1.65	1.64
Knee height (cm)	57.5	57	56.5	56	55.5	55	54.5	54	53.5	53	52.5	52	51.5	51	50.5
Women (18–59 years)	1.75	1.74	1.735	1.73	1.72	1.71	1.70	1.69	1.68	1.67	1.66	1.65	1.64	1.63	1.62
Women (60–90 years)	1.72	1.71	1.70	1.69	1.68	1.67	1.66	1.65	1.64	1.63	1.625	1.62	1.61	1.60	1.59
Men (18–59 years)	1.66	1.65	1.64	1.63	1.62	1.61	1.60	1.59	1.58	1.57	1.56	1.555	1.55	1.54	1.53
Men (60–90 years)	1.63	1.62	1.61	1.60	1.59	1.58	1.57	1.56	1.55	1.54	1.53	1.52	1.51	1.49	1.48
Knee height (cm)	50	49.5	49	48.5	48	47.5	47	46.5	46	45.5	45	44.5	44	43.5	43
Women (18–59 years)	1.61	1.60	1.59	1.585	1.58	1.57	1.56	1.55	1.54	1.53	1.52	1.51	1.50	1.49	1.48
Women (60–90 years)	1.58	1.57	1.56	1.55	1.54	1.53	1.52	1.51	1.50	1.49	1.48	1.47	1.46	1.45	1.44

Table 3. Estimating height (in meter) using demispan (permission from MAG BAPEN, www.bapen.org.uk)

Men (16–54 years)	1.97	1.95	1.94	1.93	1.92	1.90	1.89	1.88	1.86	1.85	1.84	1.82	1.81	1.80	1.78	1.77	1.76
Men (>55 years)	1.90	1.89	1.87	1.86	1.85	1.84	1.83	1.81	1.80	1.79	1.78	1.77	1.75	1.74	1.73	1.72	1.71
Demispan (cm)	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89	88	87	86	85	84	83
Women (16–54 years)	1.91	1.89	1.88	1.87	1.85	1.84	1.83	1.82	1.80	1.79	1.78	1.76	1.75	1.74	1.72	1.71	1.70
Women (>55 years)	1.86	1.85	1.83	1.82	1.81	1.80	1.79	1.77	1.76	1.75	1.74	1.73	1.71	1.70	1.69	1.68	1.67
Men (16–54 years)	1.75	1.73	1.72	1.71	1.69	1.68	1.67	1.65	1.64	1.63	1.62	1.60	1.59	1.58	1.56	1.55	1.54
Men (>55 years)	1.69	1.68	1.67	1.66	1.65	1.64	1.62	1.61	1.60	1.59	1.57	1.56	1.55	1.54	1.53	1.51	1.50
Demispan (cm)	82	81	80	79	78	77	76	75	74	73	72	71	70	69	68	67	66
Women (16–54 years)	1.69	1.67	1.66	1.65	1.63	1.62	1.61	1.59	1.58	1.57	1.56	1.54	1.53	1.52	1.50	1.49	1.48
Women (>55 years)	1.65	1.64	1.63	1.62	1.61	1.59	1.58	1.57	1.56	1.55	1.54	1.52	1.51	1.50	1.49	1.47	1.46

Table 4. Fiftieth (50th) Percentile of Standard Body Weight for Men (NHANES 1 and II); reproduced with permission from Frisancho *et al. The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* [1].

Age	25–54 years			55–74 years		
	Weight (kg)					
Height (cm)	Small frame	Medium frame	Large frame	Small frame	Medium frame	Large frame
157	64	68	82	61	68	77
160	61	71	83	62	70	80
163	66	71	84	63	71	77
165	66	74	79	70	72	79
168	67	75	84	68	74	80
170	71	77	84	69	78	85
173	71	78	86	70	78	83
175	74	78	89	75	77	84
178	75	81	87	76	80	87
180	76	81	91	69	84	84
183	74	84	91	76 ^a	81	90
185	79	85	93	78 ^a	88	88
188	80	88	92	77 ^a	95	89

^aValue estimated through linear regression equation.

nutritional measurements should be height, weight and recent weight loss. The BMI categories are:

- BMI < 18.5 chronic protein–energy undernutrition probable
- BMI 18.5–20.0 chronic protein–energy undernutrition possible
- BMI > 20.0 chronic protein–energy undernutrition unlikely

Classification of BMI. Significance: (normal individuals) from Wiggins [3]

<16	Severely underweight	Associated with health problems
<18.5	underweight	May be associated with health problems for some people
18.5–24.9	Within normal weight range	‘ideal’ or healthy weight range associated with lowest risk of illness and mortality for most people
25–29.9	Overweight	May be associated with health problems in some people
30–34.9	Obesity class I	Associated with increased risk of health problems such as heart disease, hypertension, diabetes
35–39.9	Obesity class II	Associated with increased risk of health problems such as heart disease, hypertension and diabetes
>40	Obesity class III	Extreme obesity

Table 5. Fiftieth (50th) Percentile of Standard Body Weight for Women (NHANES 1 and II); reproduced with permission from Frisancho *et al. The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* [1].

Age	25–54 years			55–74 years		
	Weight (kg)					
Height (cm)	Small frame	Medium frame	Large frame	Small frame	Medium frame	Large frame
147	52	63	86 ^a	54	57	92
150	53	66	78	55	62	78
152	53	60	87	54	65	78
155	54	61	81	56	64	79
157	55	61	81	58	64	82
160	55	62	83	58	65	80
163	57	62	79	60	66	77
165	60	63	81	60	67	80
168	58	63	75	68	66	82
170	59	65	80	61 ^a	72	80
173	62	67	76	61 ^a	70	79
175	63*	68	79	62 ^a	72 ^a	85 ^a
178	64*	70	76	63 ^a	73 ^a	85 ^a

^aValue estimated through linear regression equation.

Calculating BMI in amputees [3]. IBW needs to be adjusted by taking into account the weight of body segment(s) that is/are amputated. Adjustments of body weight can be made from knowledge of missing limbs segments.

Upper limb: whole arm 5% (upper arm 2.7% and fore arm 1.6%, hand 0.7%)

Lower limb: whole leg 16% (thigh 10.1%, lower leg 4.4%, foot 1.5%)

To measure full body weight equation

$$\text{Estimated full body weight (kg)} = \frac{\text{measured weight}}{(100 - \% \text{ weight of amputation})} \times 100$$

Change in body weight over the previous 6 months
Unintentional weight loss over the previous 3–6 months is categorized as

- 10 % of body weight: clinically significant,
- 5–10% of body weight: more than normal intra-individual variation,
- <5% of body weight: within ‘normal’ intraindividual variation.

A cut-off of >10% weight loss during the last 6 months is recommended to be used in the diagnosis of malnutrition [4].

Body surface. Body surface area should be estimated according to Gehan and George method [5]

$$BSA = 0.235 \times BW^{0.51456} \times BH^{0.42246}$$

Body water. Total body water (TBW), necessary for the calculation of the correct dialysis dose, can be estimated by the Watson formulas (2):

- $V_{\text{male}} \text{ (L)} = 2.447 + 0.3362 \text{ BW (kg)} + 0.1074 \times \text{BH (cm)} - 0.09516 \times \text{age (years)}$
- $V_{\text{female}} \text{ (L)} = -2.097 + 0.2466 \text{ BW (kg)} + 0.1069 \times \text{BH (cm)}$

Normalized protein equivalent of total nitrogen appearance nPNA. By the use of protein nitrogen appearance (PNA), formerly called protein catabolic rate (PCR), the dietary protein intake can be estimated in patients with neutral nitrogen balance (i.e. in patients, who are neither anabolic nor catabolic). In order to normalize PNA, it should be related to the body weight of the patient, leading to nPNA.

In order to optimize the diet of patients with renal disease, the dietary protein intake has to be controlled. In stable patients (non-catabolic, non-anabolic) nPNA reflects the dietary protein intake and can be calculated based on UNA (urea nitrogen appearance in the urine and/or in the dialysate, respectively) for the following reasons:

1. In patients with a neutral nitrogen balance, the nitrogen intake is identical with the loss of nitrogen (that is the total nitrogen appearance: TNA)
2. As nitrogen in protein accounts for 16% of the protein's weight, the protein equivalent of nitrogen appearance (PNA) can be calculated by total nitrogen appearance (TNA).as:

$$PNA = 6.25 \times TNA$$

3. There is a linear relationship between TNA and UNA. The ratio between UNA and TNA, however, depends on the dietary intake of protein as well as the status and treatment of the patient [2]
4. In order to normalize PNA to body weight, the K/DOQI Nutrition Work Group recommends the use of the following formula [4]:

$$nPNA = \frac{PNA}{AefBW}$$

where AefBW is the adjusted, oedema free body weight, see above

PNA is calculated by using spKt/V and C_0 . Different formulas are used for different days of the

week (5) in a two-BUN, single-pool, variable-volume model:

- Beginning of the week $PNA = C_0/[36.3 + (5.48)(spKt/V) + (53.5)/(spKt/V)] + 0.168$
- Midweek $PNA = C_0/[25.8 + (1.15)(spKt/V) + (56.4)/(spKt/V)] + 0.168$
- End of week $PNA = C_0/[16.3 + (4.3)(spKt/V) + (56.6)/(spKt/V)] + 0.168$

where C_0 = predialysis blood urea nitrogen (BUN)

spKt/V = single pool Kt/V

In patients with considerable residual renal function, C_0 should be replaced by C'_0 :

$$C'_0 = C_0[1 + (0.79 + 3.08/(Kt/V)) Kr/V]$$

where Kr is residual renal clearance in ml/min [4].

Residual renal function: glomerular filtration rate (GFR)

Residual renal function should be expressed as equivalents of glomerular filtration rate (GFR). One accepted method in both PD and HD patients is to estimate GFR from the mean of urea and creatinine clearance [6], normalized to 1.73 m^2 using the Gehan & George method [5] for calculating body surface area (BSA).

The collection time in haemodialysis patients is identical with the interval between two dialysis sessions. The plasma concentration of urea and creatinine used in the following formula are determined at the beginning and end of the collection. As in pre-ESRD and peritoneal dialysis patients, the bladder must be empty at the beginning of the collection (i.e. at the end of the dialysis) and must be completely emptied at the end of the collection (i.e. before the next dialysis starts):

$$GFR = \left(\frac{U_{\text{urea}}}{\text{preP}_{\text{urea}} + \text{postP}_{\text{urea}}} + \frac{U_{\text{creat}}}{\text{preP}_{\text{creat}} + \text{postP}_{\text{creat}}} \right) \times \frac{U_{\text{vol}}}{t} \times \left(\frac{1.73}{BSA} \right)$$

derived from:

$$GFR = 0.5 \times \left(\frac{U_{\text{urea}}}{0.5 \times (\text{preP}_{\text{urea}} + \text{postP}_{\text{urea}})} \right) + \left(\frac{U_{\text{creat}}}{0.5 \times (\text{preP}_{\text{creat}} + \text{postP}_{\text{creat}})} \right) \times \frac{U_{\text{vol}}}{t} \times \left(\frac{1.73}{BSA} \right)$$

with $0.5 \times (\text{preP}_{\text{urea}} + \text{postP}_{\text{urea}})$ = average concentration of urea in the plasma between dialysis sessions and $0.5 \times (\text{preP}_{\text{creat}} + \text{postP}_{\text{creat}})$ = average concentration of creatinine in the plasma between dialysis. $\text{preP}_{\text{urea}}$, plasma urea concentration before dialysis at end of collection; $\text{postP}_{\text{urea}}$, plasma urea concentration after dialysis at beginning of collection; $\text{preP}_{\text{creat}}$, plasma creatinine concentration before dialysis at end of collection; $\text{postP}_{\text{creat}}$, plasma creatinine concentration

after dialysis at beginning of collection; U_{urea} , urine urea concentration; U_{creat} , urine creatinine concentration; U_{vol} , urine volume; t , time of collection between dialysis sessions.

In order to be more precise, the post-dialysis concentrations should be replaced by the post-rebound concentrations, which can be calculated as follows [7]:

Post-rebound concentration for urea:

$$\text{rebound} = \text{pre} \times \left(\frac{\text{post}}{\text{pre}} \right)^{t_d/(t_d+35)}$$

where t_d , dialysis time in minutes; pre, concentration before dialysis before collection; post, concentration immediately after dialysis.

Post-rebound concentration for creatinine:

$$\text{rebound} = \text{pre} \times \left(\frac{\text{post}}{\text{pre}} \right)^{t_d/(t_d+70)}$$

where t_d , dialysis time in minutes; pre, concentration before dialysis before collection; post, concentration immediately after dialysis.

Dialysis dose

For MHD it is recommended to calculate the equilibrated Kt/V (eKt/V) instead of the single pool Kt/V ($spKt/V$) from pre- and post-HD blood samples taken under standard conditions (see below). The eKt/V takes into account the urea rebound post dialysis resulting from redistribution of peripheral pools.

Haemodialysis dose should be quantified as equilibrated Kt/V ($eKtV$) based on the regional blood flow two-pool model [8,9]:

$$eKt/V = spKt/V - (0.6 \times spKtV/T) + 0.03 \text{ (with an arteriovenous access)}$$

The value for single pool Kt/V ($spKtV$) should be derived from urea kinetic model or alternatively from the natural logarithm equation to estimate $spKtV$ [10]:

$$spKt/V = -\ln(R - 0.008 \times t) + (4 - 3.5 \times R) \times dBW/BW$$

where R , post-HD/pre-HD BUN ratio; T , treatment time in hours; dBW , intradialytic weight lost (corresponding to ultrafiltration); BW , end session body weight.

Standard conditions for blood sampling

Methods procedure derived from the K/DOQI guidelines [4,11].

(a) Pre-dialysis blood sampling procedure:

for arteriovenous

graft or fistula: obtain the blood from arterial needle before connecting the tube or flushing the needle, avoid dilution of the sample by saline and/or heparin

for central venous catheter.

using sterile technique withdraw any heparin/saline from the arterial port withdraw 10 mL of blood collect blood sample

(b) Post-dialysis blood sampling procedure:

As recirculation of dialysated blood in the arterial line or rebound of urea can significantly influence the value of urea, the sampling technique must be performed in a standardized way leading to reproducible results. In following the techniques explained below, the sample will be drawn after possible recirculation but before rebound of urea from peripheral compounds.

1. Turn off dialysate flow or reduce to minimum, decrease ultrafiltration rate to 50 ml/h
2. Decrease blood flow to 50–100 ml/min for 15 s proceed with slow pump or stop pump technique

Slow flow sampling technique

3. draw blood sample with pump running at 50–100 ml/min
4. stop blood pump and complete disconnection procedure

Stop pump sampling technique

5. stop the blood pump
6. clamp arterial and venous blood lines; clamp arterial needle tubing
7. sample blood either from arterial sampling port nearest to patient or from the arterial needle tubing after disconnection from the arterial blood line
8. blood is returned to the patient, complete disconnection procedure

LABORATORY METHODS

Serum Albumin

The gold-standard for determining serum albumin levels are immunological methods. Serum albumin levels determined by established methods like the bromcresol green (BCG) or bromcresol purple (BCP) method differ from those obtained by immunological methods due to limitations in methodology [12].

Comparing the values of albumin in plasma and serum, measured by the same method, identical values are found. However, differences are found between the bromcresol green and the bromcresol purple method. Uremic toxins as well as certain medications (e.g. phenylbutazon, clofibrac acid) [13] influence the measurement.

In general, bromcresol green methods overestimate albumin levels [14] compared with bromcresol purple [15] and nephelometry [16]. Bromcresol purple, on the other hand, generally underestimates albumin values [12,17]. Thus the evaluation of the

Subjective Global Assessment Rating Form

Patient Name _____ Date _____

A. History	Rating						
	Severe		Mild-Moderate		Normal		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Weight changes over past 6 months _____ over past 2 weeks _____ ___ < 5% weight change (or gain) ___ increasing weight ___ 5 to 10 5 weight lost ___ stable weight ___ > 10 % weight lost ___ ongoing weight lost							
2. Food intake overall: _____ usual intake _____ < usual and decreasing duration: _____ weeks type of _____ suboptimal solids _____ full liquid intake change: _____ hypocaloric fluids _____ unable to eat							
3. Gastrointestinal symptoms _____ none _____ anorexia _____ nausea _____ vomiting _____ diarrhea duration: _____ weeks							

B. Physical examination	Rating						
	Severe		Mild-Moderate		Normal		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

C. Overall SGA classification	Final Rating
1. Normal or well nourished Rating of 6 to 7 in most categories or significant and sustained improvement	
2. Mild to moderately malnourished 3 to 5 rating is indicated in most categories	
3. Severely malnourished 1 to 2 ratings in most categories	

Source: Blake PG *et al.* *J Am Soc Nephrol* 1999;10: S320.

serum albumin level must take into account the different normal ranges of the applied laboratory methods.

Bicarbonate

Plasma bicarbonate is estimated from total CO₂ measurements. It is thus mandatory to use fresh

blood samples because CO₂ might be lost leading to significant underestimation of plasma bicarbonate [18]. One must also keep in mind that total CO₂ levels assessed by electrode-based methods are an average 4mmol/l higher compared with plasma bicarbonate concentrations determined by enzymatic assays [19].

The plasma bicarbonate, calculated from $p\text{CO}_2$ by using the Henderson-Hasselbach equation, gives:

$$\text{cHCO}_3^- (\text{mmol/l}) = 0.0307 p\text{CO}_2 (\text{mmHg}) \times 10^{(\text{pH}-6.1)}$$

C-reactive protein

C-reactive Protein (CRP) has been used as a marker of inflammation for many years. In this respect, levels in the range of 5–300 mg/l have been of interest, which are detected by the common laboratory methods. Standard immunological methods like immunonephelometry and immunoturbidimetry should detect levels at least above 5 mg/l.

New assays allow the detection of even lower CRP levels in the range of 0.1–10 mg/l. These so called 'high sensitive-CRP-assays' (hs-CRP) are needed to assess the risk of atherosclerosis [20–22], as already only slightly elevated CRP levels below 5 mg/l have been found to be associated with increased risk of cardiovascular disease [23].

TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT

Subjective global assessment (SGA)

The SGA was developed for use in assessing the nutrition of general surgery patients [24]. It is recommended also for patients on dialysis, because it is a valid clinical assessment of nutritional status and is strongly associated with patient survival.

Remind that the overall SGA classification is not simply a numerical score. It does strongly depend on the clinical judgement of the examiner. He has to consider whether the patient's status is improving or deteriorating, this information may lead to different 'scores' given in each section.

The SGA is based on history and physical examination [24]. It focuses on gastrointestinal symptoms (anorexia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea), weight loss in the preceding 6 months, and visual assessment of subcutaneous tissue and muscle mass. Scores are subjectively rated on a four-point or seven point scale [4]. The use of the seven point scale is recommended because of its greater sensitivity and its use in large epidemiological studies such as the CANUSA study [25]:

Severe malnutrition: 1 or 2,
Moderate to mild malnutrition: 3 to 5,
Mild malnutrition to normal nutritional state: 6 to 7.

SGA was found to be related to other markers of nutritional status in dialysed [26] and non-dialysed uraemic subjects [27] as well as to mortality [28].

Anthropometry

Skinfold thickness (SFT) should be measured by someone experienced in the use of skinfold callipers. The measurement is taken at four different sites

Table 6. Equivalent body fat content (in% body weight) obtained from the sum of four (biceps, triceps, subscapular and suprailiac) skinfold measurements. Reproduced with permission from Durnin and Womersley. *British Journal of Nutrition* [32].

Skinfolds (mm)	Men (y)				Women (y)			
	17–29	30–39	40–49	50+	16–29	30–39	40–49	50+
15	4.8				10.5			
20	8.1	12.2	12.2	12.6	14.1	17.0	19.8	21.4
25	10.5	14.2	15.0	15.6	16.8	19.4	22.2	24.0
30	12.9	16.2	17.7	18.6	19.5	21.8	24.5	26.6
35	14.7	17.7	19.6	20.8	21.5	23.7	26.4	28.5
40	16.4	19.2	21.4	22.9	23.4	25.5	28.2	30.3
45	17.7	20.2	23.0	24.7	25.0	26.9	29.6	31.9
50	19.0	21.5	24.6	26.5	26.5	28.2	31.0	33.4
55	20.1	22.5	25.9	27.9	27.8	29.4	32.1	34.6
60	21.2	23.5	27.1	29.2	29.1	30.6	33.2	35.7
65	22.2	24.3	28.2	30.4	30.2	31.6	34.1	36.7
70	23.1	25.1	29.3	31.6	31.2	32.5	35.0	37.7
75	24.0	25.9	30.3	32.7	32.2	33.4	35.9	38.7
80	24.8	26.6	31.2	33.8	33.1	34.3	36.7	39.6
85	25.5	27.2	32.1	34.8	34.0	35.1	37.5	40.4
90	26.2	27.8	33.0	35.8	34.8	35.8	38.3	41.2
95	26.9	28.4	33.7	36.6	35.6	36.5	39.0	41.9
100	27.6	29.0	34.4	37.4	36.4	37.2	39.7	42.6
105	28.2	29.6	35.1	38.2	37.1	37.9	40.4	43.3
110	28.8	30.1	35.8	39.0	37.8	38.6	41.0	43.9
115	29.4	30.6	36.4	39.7	38.4	39.1	41.5	44.5
120	30.0	31.1	37.0	40.4	39.0	39.6	42.0	45.1
125	31.0	31.5	37.6	41.1	39.6	40.1	42.5	45.7
130	31.5	31.9	38.2	41.8	40.2	40.6	43.0	46.2
135	32.0	32.3	38.7	42.4	40.8	41.1	43.5	46.7
140	32.5	32.7	39.2	43.0	41.3	41.6	44.0	47.2
145	32.9	33.1	39.7	43.6	41.8	42.1	44.5	47.7
150	33.3	33.5	40.2	44.1	42.3	42.6	45.0	48.2
155	33.7	33.9	40.7	44.6	42.8	43.1	45.4	48.7
160	34.1	34.3	41.2	45.1	43.3	43.6	45.8	49.2
165	34.5	34.6	41.6	45.6	43.7	44.0	46.2	49.6
170	34.9	34.8	42.0	46.1	44.1	44.4	46.6	50.0
175	35.3					44.8	47.0	50.4
180	35.6					45.2	47.4	50.8
185	35.9					45.6	47.8	51.2
190						45.8	48.2	51.6
195						46.2	48.5	52.0
200						46.5	48.9	52.4
205							49.1	52.7
210							49.4	53.0

Source: Durnin JV, Womersley J. Body fat assessed from total body density and its estimation from skinfold thickness: measurements on 481 men and women aged from 16 to 72 years. *British Journal of Nutrition* 1974; 32: 77-97.

(biceps, triceps, subscapular and suprailiac). For each skinfold, the mean of three measurements is taken. The sum of four different skinfold sites allows to estimate patient's body fat in percent body weight (Table 6).

Mid-upper arm circumference (MAC) should be measured on the non-dominant, non-fistula arm. The arm should be bent at the elbow at an angle of 90°. The midpoint between the acromion and olecranon process should be ascertained by measurement and marked. The MAC at this point should be measured three times and the mean taken.

Table 7. Mid-arm muscle circumference (MAMC) for adult men and women from USA (from NHANES I study [33]); measurements made in the right arm. Reproduced with permission from Bishop CW, Bowen PE, Ritchey SJ. *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* [33].

Age (years)	50th Percentile (cm)
Men	
18–24	27.2
25–34	28.0
35–44	28.7
45–54	28.1
55–64	27.9
65–74	26.9
Women	
18–24	20.6
25–34	21.4
35–44	22.0
45–54	22.2
55–64	22.6
65–74	22.5

Source: Bishop CW, Bowen PE, Ritchey SJ. Norms for nutritional assessment of American adults for upper arm anthropometry. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 1981; 34: 2530–39 [ref. 33].

Mid-arm muscle circumference (MAMC, Table 7) should be calculated as the MAC in cm minus (triceps skinfold thickness $\times \pi$). There are no agreed cut off points for MAC, TSF or MAMC for the diagnosis of malnutrition in either the normal population or patients with chronic renal failure. Frisancho's tables provide standards for mid-arm muscle circumference in normal subjects [29,30] whilst norms have also been published for the dialysis population [31].

Handgrip strength

Muscle strength is best evaluated by muscle dynamometry of the handgrip strength which has been related to protein stores assessed by neutron activation analysis in non-uraemic subjects [34]. In pre-ESRD patients handgrip strength was strongly related to lean body mass determined by DEXA, anthropometry, and creatinine kinetics and the strongest factor related to malnutrition defined by SGA [27]. In dialysis patients handgrip strength was reduced in malnourished patients determined by SGA [35].

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