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## Abstracts of papers

### Psychological characteristics in maintenance hemodialysis patients

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**Objective** To study the psychological characteristics in maintenance hemodialysis (MHD) patients and approach specific psychotherapy.

**Methods** 92 patients from 6 dialysis units were investigated by means of 3 psychological rating scales, i. e., symptom check list 90 rating (SCL-90-R), multidimensional health locus of control (MHLC) and Eysenck personality questionnaire (EPQ), and one questionnaire of quality of life specific for end-stage renal disease patients. The results of this study were compared with the data from USA and Canada by the same rating scales.

**Results** A higher proportion of psychological disturbance especially in anxiety was found in our MHD patients than

those in USA ( $P < 0.01$ ). The psychological disturbance was significantly correlated with chance externality dimension of MHLC ( $P < 0.01$ ). Patients with high scores for neuroticism of EPQ trended towards appearance of depression and anxiety. The results also showed a lower objective quality of life in our hemodialysis patients compared with those in Canada. But there was no significant difference in overall life satisfaction between two groups. The objective quality of life in our hemodialysis patients was significantly correlated with both psychological and somatic status ( $P < 0.01$ ), and psychological disturbance was associated with somatic symptoms ( $P < 0.01$ ).

**Conclusions** Our MHD patients shared some common psychological features with foreign MHD patients, but the prevalence of anxiety was significantly higher, somatic symptoms were more and the quality of life was lower in our MHD patients than those in USA or Canada.

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