

Uremic Pruritus: Associated Factors and Effects of Present Treatment

Shu-Chen Huang *Chi-Lin Lin*^{*} *Hsin-Ying Lee*^{*} *Su-Chen Yang*^{**}
Tai-I Ho^{***} *Kuan-Yu Hung*^{****}

Abstract

Uremic pruritus remains a frequent and bothersome problem in dialysis patients. However, understanding of the pathophysiology of uremic pruritus is still limited. We conducted a survey of 168 hemodialysis patients in a single territorial hospital for uremic pruritus experience and possible associated factors. All patients were interviewed using a revised standardized questionnaire while they received hemodialysis. The degree of pruritus was based on the distribution, severity and frequency of itching. When pruritus was present, the lowest possible pruritus score was 3 and the highest possible score was 22. The results showed (1) there was no significant association of uremic pruritus with gender, or the presence or absence of DM, HBsAg, or Anti-HCV; (2) the use of antihistamine agents in this patient group was appropriate, but there was no significant reduction found in the occurrence of pruritus; and (3) treatment with ultra-violet B light radiation appeared to be effective.

Key words : hemodialysis, uremic pruritus, pruritus score

Assistant Head Nurse of Dialysis Unit, Department of Nursing, Far Eastern Memorial Hospital ; Register Nurse of Dialysis Unit, Department of Nursing, Far Eastern Memorial Hospital^{*} ; Head Nurse of Dialysis Unit, Department of Nursing, Far Eastern Memorial Hospital^{**} ; Visiting Staff, Division of Nephrology, Far Eastern Memorial Hospital^{***} ; Assistant Professor, School of Medicine, Medical College, National Taiwan University^{****}

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Correspondence : Tai-I Ho, Division of Nephrology, Far Eastern Memorial Hospital, No 21, Sec. 2,
Nan-Ya S. Road, Ban-Chiao, Taipei, Ban-Chiao, Taiwan
Telephone : (02) 89667000 ext 1163 E-mail : manual00@giga.net.tw