

Université de Montréal

Pour qui, pourquoi et comment favoriser et préconiser l'hémodialyse à domicile  
*Des leçons à tirer de l'expérience de l'Australie et la Nouvelle-Zélande*

*Par*

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*Ce mémoire intitulé*

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***Des leçons à tirer de l'expérience de l'Australie et la Nouvelle-Zélande***

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## Résumé

Avec la croissance continue du nombre de patients souffrant d'insuffisance rénale terminale dans le monde, dans un contexte de ressources limitées des soins de santé, beaucoup d'emphasis est mise sur l'importance de favoriser les modalités de dialyse à domicile, soit la dialyse péritonéale et l'hémodialyse à domicile (HDD). Toutefois, l'HDD est encore très peu utilisée, notamment au Canada.

Ce mémoire visait à identifier pour qui, pourquoi et comment il est possible de favoriser l'utilisation de l'HDD dans nos milieux cliniques en se basant sur l'expérience de l'Australie et la Nouvelle-Zélande (ANZ), où le recours à l'HDD est le plus haut dans le monde, afin d'en tirer des leçons qui pourraient être transposées au modèle canadien. Ceci pourrait favoriser l'amélioration des soins des patients et, dans un deuxième temps, réduire les besoins en ressources humaines et les coûts associés aux thérapies de remplacement rénal.

Le registre Australia and New Zealand Dialysis & Transplantation (ANZDATA) a été utilisé pour évaluer divers aspects de l'HDD en ANZ de 1997 à 2017. Tout d'abord, la présence d'un effet de centre dans le recours à la dialyse à domicile a été identifiée, démontrant que des caractéristiques, tant au niveau des patients que des centres, étaient responsables de la variabilité dans le taux d'utilisation d'HDD notée entre les centres de dialyse. Ensuite, il a été démontré qu'il n'existait pas d'effet de centre dans la durée de traitement d'hémodialyse, tant à domicile qu'en centre, mais que la variabilité de cette durée était principalement due aux caractéristiques propres aux patients, ainsi qu'à des pratiques variant entre les états/pays, et ce, de manière beaucoup plus notable en HDD. En effet, une plus grande flexibilité est offerte par cette modalité, qui est beaucoup moins affectée par la limitation des ressources que l'hémodialyse en centre. Finalement, il a été démontré que l'HDD était potentiellement une alternative équivalente à la transplantation rénale au niveau de la survie des patients dans le cas d'un greffon reçu d'un donneur à critères étendus.

**Mots-clés :** hémodialyse à domicile, dialyse à domicile, dialyse autonome, insuffisance rénale terminale, insuffisance rénale chronique



## Abstract

With the continued growth in the number of patients with end-stage renal disease around the world, in a context of limited healthcare resources, much emphasis is being placed on the importance of promoting home dialysis modalities, namely peritoneal dialysis and home hemodialysis (HHD). However, HHD is still underutilized, especially in Canada.

This thesis aimed to identify for whom, why and how it is possible to promote the use of HHD based on the experience of Australia and New Zealand (ANZ), where the use of HHD is the highest in the world, to draw lessons that could be transposed to the Canadian model.

The Australia and New Zealand Dialysis & Transplantation (ANZDATA) registry was used to assess various aspects of HHD in ANZ from 1997 to 2017. First, the presence of a center effect in the use of home dialysis was identified, demonstrating that both patient- and center-level characteristics were responsible for the variability noted in the rate of HHD use between dialysis centers. We then showed that there was no center effect in the duration of hemodialysis treatment, neither at home nor in center, but that the variability of this duration was mainly due to the characteristics of the patients, as well as to varying practices between states/countries, and this, more notably in HHD. Indeed, greater flexibility is offered by this modality, which is much less affected by the limitation of resources than in-center hemodialysis. Finally, HHD was shown to be potentially an equivalent alternative to kidney transplantation in terms of patient survival in the case of a transplant received from an expanded criteria donor.

**Keywords** : home hemodialysis, home dialysis, end-stage kidney disease, chronic kidney disease





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## Liste des sigles et abréviations

### Français

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| ANZ   | Australie et Nouvelle-Zélande                                    |
| DP    | Dialyse péritonéale  |
| ECR   | Essai clinique randomisé   |
| HDC   | Hémodialyse en centre  |
| HDD   | Hémodialyse à domicile   |
| IRC   | Insuffisance rénale chronique                                    |
| IRT   | Insuffisance rénale terminale                                    |
| MSSS  | Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux                    |
| RCITO | Registre canadien des insuffisances et transplantation d'organes |
| TSR   | Thérapie de suppléance rénale                                    |

### Anglais

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 95%CI   | 95% confidence interval                           |
| ACT     | Australian Capital Territory                      |
| ARIA    | Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia       |
| ATSI    | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander             |
| ANZ     | Australia and New Zealand                         |
| ANZDATA | Australia and New Zealand Dialysis & Transplant   |
| AVF/AVG | Arteriovenous fistula/arteriovenous graft         |
| BMI     | Body mass index                                   |
| BUN     | Blood urea nitrogen                               |
| CAD     | Coronary artery disease                           |
| CARI    | Caring for Australasians with Renal Insufficiency |
| CI      | Confidence interval                               |
| CVD     | Cerebrovascular disease                           |

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| ECD       | Expanded criteria donor   |
| eGFR      | Estimated glomerular filtration rate                                  |
| ESKD      | End-stage kidney disease  |
| HD        | Hemodialysis  |
| HDF       | Hemodiafiltration   |
| HHD       | Home hemodialysis   |
| HR        | Hazard ratio  |
| ICHD      | In-center hemodialysis  |
| IHHD      | Intensive home hemodialysis   |
| IQR       | Interquartile range   |
| IRSAD     | Index of Relative Socioeconomic Advantage and Disadvantage            |
| KDPI      | Kidney donor profile index  |
| KRT       | Kidney replacement therapy  |
| LD        | Living donor  |
| N         | Number  |
| NKF-KDOQI | National Kidney Foundation Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative |
| NSW       | New South Wales   |
| NT        | Northern Territory  |
| NZ        | New Zealand   |
| OR        | Odds ratio  |
| PD        | Peritoneal dialysis   |
| PS        | Propensity score  |
| PSM       | Propensity score matched  |
| PVD       | Peripheral vascular disease   |
| Q         | Quartile  |
| QLD       | Queensland  |
| Ref       | Reference   |
| SA        | South Australia   |
| SCD       | Standard criteria donor   |

|     |                      |
|-----|----------------------|
| SD  | Standard deviation   |
| TAS | Tasmania             |
| TX  | Transplant           |
| URR | Urea reduction ratio |
| VIC | Victoria             |
| WA  | Western Australia    |



*À mon fils à venir,  
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# 1 – Introduction

## 1.1 Insuffisance rénale terminale

L'insuffisance rénale chronique (IRC) est définie comme une défaillance des reins ou une diminution de la fonction rénale pour une durée de trois mois et plus. Elle peut être classifiée du stade 1 à 5 selon la gravité de l'atteinte. L'insuffisance rénale terminale (IRT) est associée à la nécessité d'une thérapie de suppléance rénale (TSR), soit la dialyse ou la transplantation rénale, sans laquelle on assistera au décès du patient à court terme. Il n'est pas possible de connaître la prévalence exacte de l'IRT au Canada puisqu'elle n'est pas directement comptabilisée. Toutefois, le Registre canadien des insuffisances et transplantation d'organes (RCITO) permet le recensement des patients bénéficiant de TSR au pays. Ainsi, les personnes souffrant d'IRT mais qui optent pour des soins conservateurs autres que la dialyse (visant le confort et le soutien physique et émotionnel du patient jusqu'à son décès) ne sont pas incluses dans ce registre. En 2018, au Canada (excluant le Québec, qui ne participe plus au RCITO depuis 2012), plus de 40 000 personnes recevaient une TSR, ce qui représentait une augmentation de 35% par rapport à 2009 et une prévalence d'environ 1,4 par 1000 habitants. De ce nombre, 58% était traités par la dialyse, alors que 42% vivaient avec un greffon rénal fonctionnel.(1) Cette hausse importante des taux d'IRT au pays engendre une pression supplémentaire sur les ressources limitées du système de santé en termes de TSR, alors que le taux de transplantation rénale n'a pu suivre le rythme de cette augmentation au cours de la dernière décennie.(2)

Selon Statistique Canada, en 2018, les maladies rénales (décrites comme « néphrite, syndrome néphrotique et néphropathie ») étaient la cause de 3615 décès au pays, dépassant maintenant les maladies du foie parmi les principales causes de décès au pays, en atteignant le 10<sup>e</sup> rang.(3) De plus, la survie des patients en dialyse est très faible : on estime que pour chaque année additionnelle en dialyse, le risque de décès augmente de 6%.(4) Au Canada, seulement 44% des patients en dialyse survivent un minimum de 5 ans après l'initiation du traitement.(5) Au-delà de la haute mortalité notée chez ces patients et des contraintes d'une TSR, l'IRT peut aussi entraîner

de multiples répercussions majeures sur le patient : fatigue et perte d'autonomie, restrictions alimentaires strictes, diminution de la qualité de vie, arrêt de travail et difficultés financières, symptômes incommodants, hospitalisations fréquentes, etc.(6)

Au niveau sociétal, l'IRT a un impact important sur le système de santé. Les visites médicales, les hospitalisations et la lourde médication de ces patients s'ajoutent aux coûts très élevés de la dialyse. Dans un rapport datant de 2012, selon l'Institut canadien d'information sur la santé (ICIS), on parle d'environ 60 000\$ par année par patient pour un traitement d'hémodialyse en centre (HDC).(7) Une transplantation rénale est associée à un coût d'environ 23 000\$, suivi d'environ 6 000\$ par an pour la médication anti-rejet.(7) Plus récemment, en 2019, une étude ontarienne rapportait des coûts moyens cumulatifs sur 5 ans de 410 981\$ pour un patient débutant l'HDC, 349 338\$ pour la dialyse péritonéale et 304 178\$ pour l'hémodialyse à domicile.(8) Une récente étude du groupe Canadians Seeking Solutions and Innovations to Overcome Chronic Kidney Disease (Can-SOLVE CKD) estimait que les Canadiens souffrant d'insuffisance rénale avancée recevaient au moins 217 millions de \$CAN annuellement en prestations d'invalidité du Régime de pensions du Canada et de compagnies d'assurances privées.(9)

Afin de pouvoir mieux évaluer les différentes stratégies envisagées pour pallier à l'importance de l'IRT comme problématique de santé publique, il est primordial de bien comprendre les différentes TSR disponibles et leurs implications, tant pour le patient que pour le système de santé.

## **1.2 Thérapies de suppléance rénale**

Les TSR comprennent la dialyse et la transplantation rénale. La dialyse peut ensuite être divisée selon deux différentes classifications : selon le lieu du traitement (dialyse en centre vs dialyse à domicile) ou selon la technique employée (hémodialyse [HD] ou dialyse péritonéale [DP]). Ici, on se penchera sur ces deux classifications puisque l'hémodialyse à domicile (HDD) est une technique

d'HD, comparable à celle employée en centre de dialyse, mais se déroulant dans le domicile du patient. Il sera donc possible d'évaluer plus en profondeur les implications de cette modalité spécifique tant au niveau des patients que des structures en santé, par rapport à sa technique et son lieu.

Cette introduction ne se veut pas une comparaison extensive des différentes modalités de TSR puisque ceci est bien au-delà des objectifs de ce mémoire, mais vise plutôt à présenter brièvement les grandes lignes de ces techniques, certaines caractéristiques liées à la sélection de chaque modalité pour différents patients et les principaux avantages ou désavantages généralement attribués à chaque technique dans la littérature. Le présent mémoire étant centré sur l'utilisation de l'HDD, la transplantation rénale et la DP ne seront que brièvement abordées ici. Toutefois, il est primordial d'aborder la transplantation rénale malgré tout puisqu'elle sera comparée à l'HDD plus loin. De plus, il est important de comprendre en quoi consiste la DP puisqu'il s'agit, en addition à l'HDD, d'une modalité de dialyse qui se déroule à domicile. Ainsi, on considère souvent ces deux modalités comme complémentaires pour favoriser les traitements à domicile, mais également parfois qu'elles entrent en compétition, de par les similitudes dans les profils de patients éligibles à chacun de ces traitements. Au cours des dernières années, le modèle de dialyse à domicile intégrée (*integrated home dialysis*), visant à favoriser les transitions entre ces deux modalités, a suscité beaucoup d'intérêt.(10–14)

### **1.2.1 Transplantation rénale**

La transplantation rénale, tout comme la dialyse, est une TSR et non un traitement curatif. Ainsi, un patient subissant une transplantation devra être suivi et être traité à l'aide de médicaments pour toute la durée de vie de ce greffon rénal. La transplantation rénale implique l'acte chirurgical de la mise en place du greffon rénal, suivi d'un traitement immunosuppresseur qui devra être poursuivi indéfiniment afin d'éviter le rejet du greffon. Trois types de donneurs potentiels existent : le donneur vivant, le donneur à critère standard et le donneur à critères élargis. Un

donneur vivant est un donneur qui accepte d'offrir un de ses reins à un receveur souffrant d'IRT. Un donneur à critère standard est un donneur décédé ne présentant pas de facteur de risque d'insuffisance rénale chronique. Un donneur à critères élargis est défini comme un donneur présentant un de ces critères : 1) âgé de plus de 60 ans ou 2) âgé entre 50 et 59 ans et présentant au moins deux autres facteurs de risque (antécédent d'hypertension, créatinine de plus de 1,5 mg/dL ou cause cérébrovasculaire du décès).

### *Comparaison entre la transplantation et la dialyse*

Chez les patients éligibles, la transplantation rénale est généralement considérée comme la TSR démontrant le plus de bénéfices. Dans une revue systématique de Tonelli et al.,(15) la transplantation rénale était associée à une réduction significative du risque de mortalité et des événements cardiovasculaires, ainsi qu'à des améliorations de la qualité de vie.

### **1.2.2 Hémodialyse en centre (HDC)**

L'HD est une technique d'épuration du sang à l'aide d'une membrane artificielle semi-perméable. Cette technique nécessite la présence d'un abord vasculaire, soit un cathéter ou une fistule artério-veineuse, afin de permettre la connexion du patient à la machine de dialyse par une circulation extracorporelle.(16) Dans le contexte de ce mémoire, l'appellation HDC fera référence à l'HD qui a lieu dans une unité satellite, une unité mobile, un centre externe de dialyse ou un centre principal de dialyse (généralement un hôpital). Dans tous les cas, cette modalité implique la présence de professionnels de la santé (infirmières, médecins, etc.) et implique le déplacement du patient vers cet endroit hors du domicile. Dans certains cas, le patient peut être plus ou moins autonome par rapport à ses soins, même lorsque ceux-ci ont lieu dans un centre.

L'HDC implique donc généralement un horaire fixe, des plages horaires limitées et le besoin de personnel suffisant pour la prise en charge des patients. De manière concrète, au Québec, cette modalité implique généralement trois sessions de dialyse par semaine d'une durée d'environ 4 heures chacune; soit en matinée, après-midi ou soirée; le lundi-mercredi-vendredi ou le mardi-

jeudi-samedi. Selon le type d'unité de dialyse et l'état clinique du patient, celui-ci peut être installé dans un fauteuil de dialyse ou dans un lit. Le patient doit également se déplacer vers le centre de traitement pour chacune des sessions de traitement (transport personnel, adapté, en commun, etc.) et, dépendamment de l'autonomie du patient et du type de centre, une certaine période d'attente avant et après le traitement peut être nécessaire.

Tous les types de patients peuvent être traités par HDC. Toutefois, les patients très âgés et souffrants d'un grand nombre de comorbidités n'ont, pour des raisons de sécurité, généralement accès qu'à cette modalité.

### **1.2.3 Dialyse à domicile**

#### **Hémodialyse à domicile (HDD)**

L'HDD utilise la technique de l'HD, mais dans la résidence du patient. Tout comme pour l'HDC, l'abord vasculaire est soit un cathéter ou une fistule artério-veineuse, bien que cette dernière soit généralement fortement recommandée et parfois même exigée pour un traitement à domicile. Ainsi, dans certains milieux, l'accessibilité aux ressources nécessaires pour la création chirurgicale d'une fistule artério-veineuse peut représenter une barrière au recours à l'HDD.(16)

En HDD, les traitements doivent pouvoir être effectués par le patient ou avec l'assistance d'un proche aidant pouvant effectuer les manœuvres techniques. La durée des traitements et leur horaire varient d'un patient à l'autre, selon ses besoins et ses préférences. Un minimum de 3 sessions d'au moins 4 heures sont généralement effectuées. Toutefois, les sessions peuvent également être plus longues (allant même jusqu'à des traitements nocturnes de 8 à 9 heures) ou plus fréquentes et plus courtes. L'horaire peut être variable d'une semaine à l'autre.

Pour être éligible à l'HDD, certains considèrent que le patient doit être stable médicalement et ses traitements doivent se dérouler sans incident récurrent (exemple : chute de tension artérielle ou symptômes importants). Au contraire, d'autres considèrent que la mauvaise tolérance à l'HDC est un argument en faveur du transfert du patient vers l'HDD avec horaire prolongé, qui peut permettre une meilleure stabilité. Les capacités fonctionnelles, cognitives et langagières du patient doivent généralement aussi être jugées suffisantes par une équipe multidisciplinaire pour l'apprentissage et l'utilisation sécuritaire de cette technique.(16) Il est à noter que ce jugement est subjectif et, donc, peut être très variable d'un centre à l'autre, notamment selon l'expérience et les ressources disponibles. De plus, des facteurs environnementaux doivent aussi être respectés quant à l'espace nécessaire pour le matériel, l'accès à de l'eau de bonne qualité et à un soutien de la part des services chargés de l'approvisionnement en électricité.(16) De mon expérience personnelle, les critères de sélection des patients sont beaucoup plus stricts au Québec qu'en Australie, majoritairement en raison des ressources de soutien beaucoup plus limitées au Québec et d'une plus grande expérience avec cette modalité en Australie.

### *Bénéfices de l'HDD*

Plusieurs études se sont intéressées aux bénéfices de l'HDD, et ce, à bien des niveaux. Cependant, un grand nombre de ces études ont évalué des patients sous HDD qualifiée d'intensive en raison du nombre d'heures de traitement effectuées par semaine. Ainsi, il est possible que certains des bénéfices attribués à l'HDD le soient en raison de la durée de traitement plutôt que par le fait que la thérapie soit effectuée à domicile. Les principaux bénéfices attribués à l'HDD se rapportent à la qualité de vie(17)(18)(19), au contrôle de la volémie et de l'hypertension artérielle(20), au contrôle du bilan phosphocalcique et du métabolisme osseux(20,21), et à la fertilité.(22) En termes de survie, de très nombreuses études ont tenté de comparer l'HDD à l'HDC : (23)(24)(25)(8)(26,27)(28,29) ces études démontrent un bénéfice de l'HDD par rapport à l'HDC, mais il s'agit presque exclusivement de données observationnelles, sujettes à des biais de sélection. De plus, l'utilisation de l'HDD y est souvent aussi associée à une durée de dialyse beaucoup plus longue qu'en HDC.



## **Dialyse péritonéale (DP)**

La DP est une technique d'épuration qui utilise la membrane péritonéale comme surface d'échange. Le patient est muni d'un cathéter trans-pariétal installé chirurgicalement (ou en radio-intervention) dans la cavité péritonéale au travers de la paroi de l'abdomen. Un liquide stérile (dialysat), fourni dans des poches de plastique, est infusé dans la cavité péritonéale via le cathéter. Les toxines urémiques sont éliminées par diffusion du sang du patient au liquide de dialysat à travers la membrane péritonéale et un excédent d'eau peut également être éliminé. L'infusion de dialysat dans l'abdomen et son élimination après un séjour dans l'abdomen (échanges) peuvent être effectués manuellement, en général quatre fois par jour, ou la nuit à l'aide d'un appareil. On parle alors respectivement de dialyse péritonéale continue ambulatoire (DPCA) ou de dialyse péritonéale automatisée (DPA).(16)

Tout comme pour l'HDD, la DP nécessite que le patient puisse effectuer lui-même ses traitements ou avec l'assistance d'un aidant. La DP se déroule généralement au domicile du patient. Toutefois, il est à noter qu'un échange de dialyse peut être effectué dans divers lieux, en autant que les mesures d'hygiène et de prévention d'infection puissent être respectées. Par exemple, dans certains cas, un patient pourrait effectuer un échange de dialyse sur son lieu de travail, si les installations le permettent.

En DPCA, le patient effectuera en général 3 ou 4 échanges au cours d'une période de 24 heures. Le dialysat sera infusé en début de journée et sera laissé en place dans l'abdomen pour une durée d'environ 4 heures. Par la suite, le liquide d'élimination sera drainé et une nouvelle poche de dialysat sera infusée après la vidange complète de l'abdomen. Ceci sera répété 4 heures plus tard; puis à nouveau après 4 heures supplémentaires. Au cours de la nuit, l'abdomen peut être laissé vide ou la dernière infusion de la journée peut être laissée en place jusqu'au lendemain matin. Le drainage du liquide et l'infusion d'une nouvelle poche de dialysat durent en général un total de 20 à 30 minutes. Lorsque le liquide est en place dans l'abdomen, le patient peut vaquer à ses activités habituelles. Le volume de dialysat infusé et gardé dans l'abdomen est généralement

d'environ 1,5 à 2,5L, selon la physiologie du patient et ses besoins. En DPA, le patient connectera son cathéter de dialyse à un appareil en fin de journée et celui-ci effectuera automatiquement de multiples échanges au cours de la nuit (cycles). Au moment du dernier cycle, l'abdomen peut être laissé vide ou être rempli par le contenu d'une dernière poche de liquide qui sera conservée dans l'abdomen pour la journée.

L'horaire exact, le nombre d'échanges et le volume de dialysat varieront d'un patient à l'autre. Cette modalité de dialyse permet donc également une flexibilité de l'horaire. Il est aussi possible pour le patient de voyager, ce qui est d'autant plus facile si la technique manuelle est employée.

Certaines conditions physiques peuvent rendre cette technique impossible (exemple : atteinte de la membrane péritonéale la rendant non fonctionnelle). Certaines conditions de santé sont parfois également considérées comme des contre-indications relatives à cette technique (exemple : obésité morbide, maladie inflammatoire de l'intestin sévère). Toutefois, une évaluation médicale cas par cas doit être effectuée afin de déterminer l'éligibilité du patient. Tout comme pour l'HDD, les capacités fonctionnelles, cognitives et langagières doivent également permettre au patient d'être traité par DP. Les facteurs environnementaux nécessaires sont liés à l'espace nécessaire pour le rangement du matériel et pour assurer qu'un milieu approprié soit utilisé pour respecter les règles sanitaires lors des échanges.(16) Encore une fois, ce jugement des capacités et des facteurs environnementaux est subjectif et peut grandement varier d'un contexte à l'autre.

### *Bénéfices de la DP*

Les principaux bénéfices de la DP rapportés sont l'autonomie et la qualité de vie (notamment en permettant de conserver un emploi(30) et de voyager). De nombreuses études ont visé à comparer la DP à l'HDC au niveau de la qualité de vie, démontrant généralement une qualité de vie similaire, voire supérieure.(31)(32) De plus, plusieurs études ont démontré la supériorité de

la DP par rapport à l'HDC par rapport à la préservation de la fonction rénale résiduelle,(33) qui est un facteur associé à une meilleure survie chez les patients sous dialyse.(34)(35) De très nombreuses études ont également été publiées par rapport à la comparaison de la survie en HDC versus en DP. En général, ces études rapportent une mortalité similaire dans les deux groupes, avec un potentiel bénéfique pour la DP chez les patients non-diabétiques, non-obèses, plus jeunes ou dans les premières années du traitement.(36–47)

### *Comparaisons entre l'HDD et la DP*

L'HDD et la DP étant toutes deux des modalités de traitement à domicile, elles permettent une flexibilité d'horaire et une préservation de l'autonomie du patient, toutes deux bénéfiques au niveau de la qualité de vie. En termes de survie, quelques études ont démontré un bénéfice de l'HDD par rapport à la DP.(23)(48)(49)(50)(51) Cependant, certaines de ces études présentaient des biais importants ou provenaient de comparaisons indirectes alors que ces techniques à domicile étaient comparées à l'HDC.

## **1.3 Les défis du Québec et les orientations ministérielles**

Alors que le Canada est doté d'un registre des patients sous TSR (le RCITO), celui-ci ne peut malheureusement pas être utilisé pour l'évaluation de la situation en dialyse au Québec. En effet, depuis 2011, en raison de questions liées à l'administration des données, une importante sous-déclaration des cas a rendu impossible l'inclusion du Québec dans les rapports annuels du RCITO. En 2015, le document des « Orientations ministérielles pour les personnes atteintes de maladie rénale »(16), préparé par le Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux (MSSS), soulignait une augmentation de 40,2% du nombre de patients sous dialyse (patients prévalents) entre 2005 et 2014. Une augmentation des nouveaux patients en dialyse au Québec (patients incidents) au cours des dernières années évaluées y était aussi notée.

En 2014, au Québec, on dénombrait 4290 (84%) patients en HDC, 117 (2%) patients en HDD et 688 (14%) patients en DP. Selon les régions du Québec, la proportion de patients dialysés en HDD variait de 0 à 10%. Au Québec, globalement, les patients sous traitements à domicile représentaient donc seulement 16% de tous les patients dialysés, ce qui était bien en deçà de la moyenne canadienne de l'époque à 24%.<sup>(1)</sup> Devant cette situation, le MSSS mentionnait d'ailleurs les exemples inspirants de l'Ontario et la Colombie-Britannique qui sont dotés d'organismes permanents veillant à la qualité des soins et des services offerts aux patients souffrant d'IRC et soumettait plusieurs recommandations visant à augmenter l'usage de la dialyse à domicile dans les années à venir. Se basant sur les cibles établies par l'Ontario par rapport à l'utilisation des modalités de traitements à domicile, le MSSS recommandait à l'époque qu'en 2019, 25% des nouveaux patients soient traités par des modalités de traitement à domicile et que, d'ici 2025, cette proportion atteigne 40%.

Malheureusement, aucune donnée officielle du Québec quant à l'utilisation des thérapies à domicile n'a été publiée depuis ces recommandations. Toutefois, les données canadiennes fournies par le RCITO, par rapport aux patients sous TSR en 2018 (patients prévalents), rapportent des taux de patients dialysés en thérapie à domicile de l'ordre de 29% et 24% en Colombie-Britannique et en Ontario, respectivement, et de 24% pour l'ensemble du Canada (à l'exception du Québec).<sup>(1)</sup> Ainsi, compte tenu que les données du Québec était bien inférieure à la moyenne canadienne en 2014, il serait bien étonnant que la proportion en 2019 dans la province ait parvenu à dépasser les données du pays. Il est actuellement aussi raisonnable de se questionner à savoir si les cibles ministérielles proposées au Québec n'apparaissent pas irréalistes, voire même impossibles à atteindre dans le contexte actuel. Ainsi, afin de viser l'atteinte des cibles annoncées en 2015, il est intéressant de s'attarder à des modèles ayant démontré leur succès par rapport à l'utilisation de la dialyse à domicile pour en tirer des leçons.

## 1.4 L'expérience de l'Australie et la Nouvelle-Zélande

L'Australie et la Nouvelle-Zélande (ANZ) sont les deux pays où l'utilisation de l'HDD est la plus importante dans le monde. En effet, en 2018, en Australie et en Nouvelle-Zélande, l'HDD représentait respectivement 8% et 15% de l'ensemble des patients dialysés (10% et 21% des patients sous HD),(52) alors que cette proportion était d'environ 4% au Canada.(1) En plus de l'HDD, la DP est également grandement utilisée dans ces deux pays, représentant 18% et 30% de l'ensemble des patients sous dialyse en Australie et en Nouvelle-Zélande, respectivement. Ainsi, 26% des patients dialysés australiens et 45% des néozélandais l'étaient à domicile en 2018. Il est à noter que ces deux pays présentent des taux d'incidence d'IRT traitée (117 et 119 par million de population en Australie et Nouvelle-Zélande, respectivement (53)) globalement similaires à celui du Canada (198 par million de population) (54).

En ANZ, à l'instar du Canada, le financement des traitements de dialyse à domicile relève du domaine public. En Australie, le paiement des bénéficiaires via Medicare est régi par le *Health Insurance Act 1973*. Les remboursements de l'HDC et de l'HDD sont couverts dans tous les états et territoires du pays.(55) Toutefois, en Australie, les traitements de dialyse en centre peuvent avoir lieu dans des institutions publiques, mais également dans des centres de dialyse privés. Les coûts liés à la dialyse varient également à l'intérieur des états et entre ceux-ci, particulièrement entre les régions urbaines et éloignées.(56) De plus, diverses stratégies de remboursement sont en place selon les états pour encourager l'utilisation des thérapies à domicile. Le gouvernement de Victoria, par exemple, fournit un paiement de 804\$AUD et 2120\$AUD par année pour chaque patient en DP et en HDD, respectivement. Ce paiement doit être versé directement au patient par le centre de services de santé central, pour aider à la couverture de certains coûts encourus en raison du traitement à domicile.(57) Aussi, des remboursements ou des rabais sur l'eau et/ou l'électricité spécifiques à chaque état sont offerts afin de venir en aide aux patients en HDD en raison des coûts résultant de l'utilisation de l'équipement nécessaire à leur traitement.(58)

Par ailleurs, d'autres mesures font en sorte que la dialyse à domicile est favorisée en ANZ, tant au niveau des structures physiques que des ressources humaines en place. Tout d'abord, la formation des futurs néphrologues en ANZ requiert une exposition suffisante autant à l'HDD qu'à la DP.(59) Ensuite, certaines initiatives visent à pallier aux barrières que peut représenter la nécessité de l'installation de l'équipement pour l'HDD dans le lieu de résidence du patient. Par exemple, en Nouvelle-Zélande, des maisons communautaires (*community houses*) sont partagées par plusieurs patients pendant leurs traitements, notamment la nuit, sans la présence d'aucun professionnel de la santé.(60)

L'Australie et la Nouvelle-Zélande sont donc des chefs de file en termes d'utilisation de l'HDD et, devant de multiples similitudes entre le Canada et l'ANZ, il apparaît approprié de vouloir s'inspirer du modèle de ces pays pour tenter d'optimiser l'utilisation de l'HDD localement. En effet, en plus des systèmes de santé comparables entre les pays, les caractéristiques démographiques et géographiques sont semblables à plusieurs égards : l'Australie et le Canada sont tous deux des pays avec de très grands territoires et une faible densité de population, majoritairement concentrée dans des régions urbaines. Au niveau de plusieurs indicateurs de santé des populations et des caractéristiques des patients souffrant d'IRT traités par des TSR, l'ANZ et le Canada sont également comparables.(52)(1)

## **1.5 Objectif principal et hypothèse**

À la lumière des données présentées précédemment par rapport à l'utilisation de l'HDD en ANZ et des besoins identifiés au Québec au niveau de l'optimisation des TSR à domicile, l'objectif principal de ce mémoire était d'identifier pour qui, pourquoi et comment il est possible de favoriser l'utilisation de l'HDD en se basant sur l'expérience de l'ANZ pour en tirer des leçons qui pourraient être ensuite transposées au modèle canadien. L'hypothèse principale était que des éléments tangibles de la réalité de l'ANZ seraient identifiés et permettraient d'établir des pistes

de solutions pour tenter de viser une augmentation justifiée de la proportion des patients traités par l'HDD dans le contexte canadien.

## **1.6 Questions de recherche**

Afin d'identifier des facteurs favorisant l'utilisation de l'HDD et des raisons concrètes de préconiser cette modalité, tant au niveau des structures du système de santé que des bénéfices pour les patients, trois principales questions ont été abordées.

Tout d'abord, la première étude visait à évaluer l'importance de l'effet des structures, par rapport aux caractéristiques des patients, dans l'utilisation des modalités de dialyse à domicile. En effet, on visait à identifier les caractéristiques des patients et des centres associées à l'utilisation de la dialyse à domicile. L'hypothèse était qu'une variation importante existait entre les centres dans le taux d'utilisation de l'HDD et qu'au-delà des différences dans les caractéristiques des patients, des facteurs propres aux centres étaient aussi associés à l'utilisation de la dialyse à domicile (l'effet de centre).

Ensuite, afin d'identifier de potentielles différences entre les pratiques en HDC par rapport à l'HDD, la deuxième étude s'est penchée sur l'évaluation de la variabilité dans le nombre d'heures de traitement en hémodialyse à travers le temps et entre les centres de dialyse. Ainsi, on s'intéressait à nouveau à l'effet de centre en se penchant sur les pratiques en termes de durée de traitement d'HD par semaine en HDC et en HDD. La limitation des ressources des systèmes de santé étant un enjeu primordial en dialyse, la durée de traitement en HD devient une question qui revêt encore plus d'importance si l'on peut y identifier des différences significatives entre les pratiques en centre versus à domicile. L'hypothèse était que la variabilité de durée hebdomadaire de traitement en HD serait associée à des caractéristiques des patients et des centres, et que ces variations seraient d'autant plus marquées en HDD qu'en HDC en raison d'une moindre limitation

des ressources dans le contexte du traitement à domicile et de la plus grande flexibilité permise par cette modalité.

Finalement, dans le but d'identifier des situations où l'HDD pourrait démontrer un bénéfice particulier pour certaines populations plus spécifiques, l'HDD a été comparée à la transplantation rénale en tant que TSR en termes de survie des patients. Tel que précédemment énoncé, la transplantation rénale est considérée comme la TSR offrant le plus grand bénéfice en termes de survie chez les patients avec IRT. L'hypothèse était que la transplantation rénale est associée à une meilleure survie du patient et de la TSR que l'HDD. Cependant, selon le type de don envisagé (par exemple : donneur plus âgé, porteur de comorbidités), le bénéfice de la greffe pourrait différer. De plus, il est important de souligner que tous les patients ne désirent pas ou ne sont pas éligibles à une greffe. Dans un tel cas, il est donc aussi important d'être en mesure d'offrir des pistes de réflexion quant aux potentiels bénéfices de l'HDD si on juge que l'utilisation de cette modalité mérite d'être préconisée.



## 2 – Méthodologie

La méthodologie détaillée pour chacun des trois articles contenus dans ce mémoire est énoncée dans les articles sous leur section *Methods* respective. La présente portion du mémoire visera plutôt à offrir des informations supplémentaires sur le type d'études menées, les populations étudiées, la base de données utilisée et certaines stratégies d'analyses employées pour contrer les potentiels biais induits par le type d'étude utilisé.

### 2.1 Études basées sur un registre

Les études basées sur un registre (*registry-based studies*) ne constituent pas en soi une catégorie d'études partageant des caractéristiques inhérentes quant à leur design. Cette appellation réfère en fait au type de données employées dans ces études. Un registre est basé sur la collecte standardisée d'informations à propos d'un groupe de personnes partageant un état/maladie ou une expérience/traitement. Un registre est un type de base de données et non un design expérimental. La plupart des registres sont développés sur une base prospective de la collecte des données. Cependant, les études basées sur un registre sont bien souvent de nature rétrospective via l'analyse des données déjà recueillies. Ainsi, il est important de plutôt décrire ce type d'études par leurs caractéristiques de design épidémiologique classique. En effet, il peut s'agir d'études observationnelles comparatives ou non comparatives, mais également d'études expérimentales. Dans le cas des études observationnelles, selon que les groupes comparés soient déterminés par leur exposition ou leur issue, il s'agira d'un design d'étude de cohorte ou d'étude cas-témoins, respectivement.(61)

Bien que les essais cliniques randomisés (ECR) soient souvent considérés comme la panacée des études pour l'évaluation de l'effet d'un traitement, ceux-ci ne sont pas toujours possibles en raison de considération logistiques, financières et éthiques. De plus, dans le contexte d'un ECR, les critères d'éligibilité à l'étude peuvent grandement affecter la généralisabilité des résultats. Les

études observationnelles, quant à elles, peuvent contribuer de manière très importante à l'avancement des connaissances, notamment en générant et en testant des hypothèses.(62)

Dans le domaine des TSR, l'utilisation d'ECR est bien souvent impossible, notamment pour des questions éthiques et par la grande difficulté de recruter des patients se portant volontaires pour une allocation aléatoire de divers traitements de dialyse en raison des répercussions importantes de chacune des modalités sur la vie quotidienne des participants. Les études observationnelles revêtent alors une importance encore plus grande. Afin d'améliorer la validité des résultats d'études observationnelles, l'inclusion d'une assez grande population à l'étude est primordiale. L'utilisation de données de registre devient alors un atout majeur. Dans le cas de la néphrologie, d'importants registres de patients sous TSR existent, et ce, à travers le monde. Selon l'étendue des données recueillies, de la population couverte par le registre et de la méthodologie pour la collecte des données, ces registres peuvent aider grandement à la planification, à l'observation et à la décision dans divers domaines de prise en charge médicale. De plus, ils peuvent contribuer à l'étude d'inégalités sociales ou géographiques dans les soins, voire même à la comparaison entre les structures de soins (par exemple : d'un hôpital à l'autre) et à l'évaluation médico-économique, dans certains cas. Bien que les registres puissent être utilisés pour évaluer des associations entre diverses variables et issues cliniques, leur robustesse pour identifier une relation de cause à effet est grandement limitée par de nombreux biais potentiels : biais de sélection, biais d'indication, biais de confusion, etc.

Les articles présentés dans ce mémoire sont tous les trois basés sur des données d'un même registre, mais utilisant des designs expérimentaux différents d'une étude à l'autre. Les limitations inhérentes aux études basées sur les registres sont donc à considérer de manière globale pour les trois études décrites ici.

### **2.1.1 Design des études**

Les trois études incluses dans ce mémoire sont de nature observationnelle et rétrospective, basées sur un registre. La première étude, s'intéressant aux facteurs associés à l'utilisation de la dialyse à domicile, est basée sur un design d'étude cas-témoins alors que les groupes comparés sont déterminés par leur issue. Ici, les patients traités par une thérapie de dialyse à domicile forment le groupe des cas, alors que les patients traités en centre jouent le rôle de témoins. La deuxième étude s'apparente à une étude de cohorte où les patients en HDD sont comparés aux patients en HDC. Toutefois, ces deux groupes ne sont comparés que de manière descriptive, alors que les analyses principales pour cette étude sont menées de manière indépendante dans chacune des cohortes pour l'évaluation des caractéristiques associées à la durée du traitement d'HD hebdomadaire. La troisième étude, quant à elle, a un design d'étude de cohorte alors qu'elle permet la comparaison de l'HDD à la transplantation rénale en incluant une cohorte de patients en HDD et trois cohortes de receveurs de greffons rénaux.

### **2.1.2 ANZDATA**

Le registre Australia and New Zealand Dialysis & Transplant (ANZDATA) est le registre officiel de l'Australie et la Nouvelle-Zélande en ce qui a trait au TSR. Ce registre est en opération depuis 1977.(63) Il est obligatoire de contribuer à cette base de données pour toutes les unités rénales de ces deux pays (publiques ou privées), traitant autant les adultes que les enfants. Ce registre vise surtout à rapporter l'incidence, la prévalence et les issues cliniques des patients sous TSR, tant dialyse que transplantation. Un sondage annuel est complété près du 31 décembre chaque année, reflétant les 12 mois précédents. De plus, les données sont aussi collectées en temps réel pour tous les nouveaux patients initiant une TSR, ainsi que pour les changements de modalité de TSR, les changements de centre traitant, les décès et certains événements majeurs, tels qu'un nouveau diagnostic de cancer. Ce registre est financé par les gouvernements de l'Australie et de la Nouvelle-Zélande, par l'organisme Kidney Health Australia et par l'Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology.

Plusieurs groupes de travail travaillent à la bonne tenue du registre et à l'amélioration des données recueillies, afin que celles-ci soient utiles d'un point de vue clinique. Par exemple, des groupes de travail en HD, en DP et en transplantation suggèrent l'ajout de certaines variables à collecter, afin de mieux caractériser les patients ou d'assurer le suivi d'issues cliniques importantes. Chaque année, ANZDATA publie un rapport portant sur les principales données recueillies, tout en comparant les tendances par rapport aux années antérieures. Par ailleurs, il est possible de soumettre des demandes à ANZDATA pour l'obtention de données du registre pour la tenue d'études. Ces demandes sont alors évaluées par le comité exécutif d'ANZDATA et, si nécessaire, par le(s) groupe(s) de travail concerné(s). Si la demande est jugée appropriée, suite à l'approbation de l'étude par un comité d'éthique de la recherche dans le centre où se déroulera le projet, une base de données dé-identifiées est alors transmise au chercheur. De très nombreuses publications dans des journaux scientifiques sont issues des données de ce registre chaque année.(63)

### **2.1.3 Population à l'étude**

Afin de mener les trois études détaillées dans les articles suivants, le registre ANZDATA a été utilisé, entre autres, vu l'importance de la population de patients traités par HDD en ANZ, permettant des analyses appropriées pour répondre aux questions de recherche. Globalement, la population adulte ( $\geq 18$  ans) ayant initié une TSR entre le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1997 et le 31 décembre 2017 a été étudiée, utilisant divers sous-groupes de patients selon la question de recherche abordée. Les détails exacts des patients inclus dans chacune des études sont décrits dans les articles correspondants.

## **2.2 Analyses statistiques**

Tel que décrit si haut, les études menées pour ce mémoire avaient toutes les trois un design observationnel basé sur des données de registre. Toutefois, de multiples analyses statistiques utilisant des méthodes variées d'une étude à l'autre ont été utilisées, selon les questions de

recherche et les populations étudiées. Dans tous les cas, diverses stratégies d'ajustement ont entre autres été utilisées par le biais d'analyses multivariées, permettant de tenir compte de diverses caractéristiques des patients et des centres. Les variables étaient d'abord évaluées par une régression uni-variée et étaient intégrées dans les analyses multivariées dans le cas d'une p-value  $<0,2$  au niveau uni-varié.

### **2.2.1 Modèle de régression mixte**

Le modèle de régression mixte (*mixed-effects model*), ou modèle de régression à effets aléatoires, est un modèle statistique permettant de tenir compte de la structure hiérarchique des données analysées. On parle d'un effet fixe lorsque le facteur affectera tous les individus de la même façon (par exemple : la relation entre le sexe et l'issue à l'étude sera fixe dans toute la population). Par opposition, un effet aléatoire est un facteur affectant les individus ou les groupes de manière différente. Il permet de refléter l'hétérogénéité d'une population en tenant compte du regroupement intra-groupe des données (*clustering*). Dans un modèle mixte, il est à la fois possible d'intégrer des effets fixes et des effets aléatoires.(64)(65)

Dans les deux premières études abordées (articles 1 et 2), des modèles de régression mixte ont été utilisés afin de tenir compte du regroupement des patients dans les centres de dialyse. Ainsi, dans la première étude un modèle de régression logistique mixte a été utilisé, alors qu'un modèle de régression linéaire mixte a été employé dans la deuxième. Dans les deux cas, le centre de dialyse a été intégré au modèle comme effet aléatoire. Les caractéristiques des patients et les caractéristiques des centres, quant à elle, y étaient incluses comme effets fixes. Ainsi, on tenait compte de la hiérarchie des données, les patients étant nichés (*nested*) dans les centres. Dans la deuxième étude, un niveau additionnel de hiérarchisation a pu être ajouté au modèle en y intégrant l'état (*state*) comme deuxième effet aléatoire : les patients étaient regroupés dans les centres et les centres nichés dans les états. Malheureusement, ce niveau supplémentaire n'a pu être intégré au modèle employé dans la première étude, puisque qu'il rendait le modèle instable.

### **2.2.2 Modèle de survie**

Dans le cadre de la troisième étude, la question de recherche portait sur la survie des patients et de leur technique de TSR. Afin de comparer les sous-groupes à l'étude, des courbes de survie de Kaplan-Meier ont été employées, en parallèle du test de *log-rank* pour l'analyse statistique entre les groupes. Des analyses multivariées par régression de Cox avec risques proportionnels ont aussi été utilisées.

### **2.2.3 Effet temporel**

Dans les trois études de ce mémoire, une période de 20 ans était évaluée. Il ne fait aucun doute que les connaissances, les traitements et les conditions de santé globales de la population ont grandement évolués au cours d'une aussi longue période de temps. Ainsi, ces variations dans le temps (auquel on référera parfois comme le *era effect*) ont été explorées de différentes façons dans les études présentées.

Dans la première étude, puisque l'on s'intéressait au recours de la dialyse à domicile, un point précis de délimitation des époques a été employé. En effet, en 2005, une initiative australienne a été mise en place pour favoriser l'utilisation de la dialyse à domicile. Une catégorisation selon l'époque a donc été employée (1997 à 2005 vs 2006 à 2017) en ajoutant une variable au modèle pour tenir compte de cet effet lié à l'époque.

Ensuite, dans la seconde étude, une cohorte incluant tous les nouveaux patients ayant débutés un traitement d'HD entre 2000 et 2017 (patients incidents) a été évaluée pour explorer la présence ou non d'une variation dans le temps des pratiques en termes de durée de traitement d'HD. Une attention particulière a été portée à la période entourant l'année 2006. Une étude basée sur les données d'ANZDATA avait à l'époque démontré une meilleure survie des patients en HD lorsque la durée de traitement atteignait au moins 4,5 heures par session de dialyse.(66) Ainsi, on souhaitait évaluer si la publication de cette étude semblait avoir eu un impact sur les

pratiques en termes de durée de traitement et si celui-ci s'était perpétué dans le temps. En parallèle, une deuxième cohorte a été utilisée dans cette étude pour répondre à la principale question de recherche portant sur les caractéristiques associées à la durée hebdomadaire de dialyse. En effet, puisque la durée de traitement a le potentiel de varier d'une année à l'autre et que cette donnée est collectée annuellement par le registre, une cohorte formée de tous les patients traités par HD en 2017 (patients prévalents) a été employée pour les analyses principales de l'étude.

Finalement, dans le troisième article, puisqu'aucun événement précis n'était à évaluer par rapport à la comparaison de la survie des patients en HDD par rapport à la transplantation rénale, l'effet du temps a été exploré dans une analyse de sensibilité en intégrant l'époque au modèle sous forme d'une variable continue correspondant au temps entre le début de la période à l'étude et l'inclusion du patient dans la cohorte.

#### **2.2.4 Définitions employées**

Une difficulté importante rencontrée dans les études s'intéressant aux modalités de dialyse à domicile qui incluent des populations de patients initiant une TSR est la définition employée pour identifier de manière adéquate la modalité de traitement du patient. En effet, puisque les thérapies à domicile sont des modalités nécessitant l'autonomie des patients pour effectuer le traitement, il peut y avoir une période de transition entre le début de la dialyse et le premier traitement avec une thérapie à domicile. Par exemple, bon nombre de patients débiteront leur premier traitement de dialyse en HDC, mais seront subséquentement traités en HDD après une période de formation plus ou moins longue. Dans certains cas, cette période a lieu dans une clinique de dialyse dédiée aux thérapies à domicile et le patient est d'emblée comptabilisé comme un utilisateur d'HDD ou de DP. De plus, certains patients peuvent avoir débuté la dialyse de manière hâtive en raison d'une détérioration rapide de leur fonction rénale n'ayant pas pu permettre une préparation adéquate du patient pour débiter d'emblée son traitement avec une thérapie à domicile. De la même manière, un patient pourrait avoir momentanément été dans

l'impossibilité de s'occuper de son traitement de manière autonome lorsque la dialyse a été initiée (par exemple, en raison d'une blessure) mais a par la suite fait une transition avec succès vers une thérapie à domicile. Ainsi, il est nécessaire de bien définir comment les sous-groupes d'une population incidente de patients sous dialyse ont été déterminés.

Dans le premier article, puisque l'objectif principal de l'étude était d'identifier les caractéristiques des patients et des centres associés à l'utilisation de la dialyse à domicile, celle-ci a été définie comme tout traitement de dialyse en DP ou en HDD enregistré au registre au cours des 6 premiers mois après l'initiation de la dialyse. Dans cette étude, une analyse de sensibilité explorant l'expansion de cette définition jusqu'à 12 mois après le début de la dialyse a aussi été employée. Dans le second article, puisque la question principale était basée sur la durée de traitement d'HD par semaine et que cette donnée est collectée au moment du sondage annuel du registre, la modalité de traitement (HDC vs HDD) rapportée en lien avec le nombre d'heures de traitement a été utilisée pour définir les groupes. Finalement, dans le troisième article, puisque l'objectif principal était de comparer la survie de patients initiant la dialyse en HDD à celle de patients recevant une transplantation rénale, la population de patients sous HDD a été définie comme « tout patient traité par HDD au jour 90 après l'initiation de la dialyse ». Cette définition a été employée, entre autres, puisqu'elle avait aussi été utilisée dans une étude précédente basée sur les données du registre ANZDATA qui s'était intéressée à la comparaison de la survie des patients en HDD par rapport à la DP.(51)

Il est tout de même important de noter que cette définition est arbitraire et qu'il y a absence de consensus dans le domaine de la dialyse par rapport à la définition à employer lorsque l'on réfère à un patient incident en dialyse à domicile. Ainsi, le choix de cette définition dans la troisième étude pourrait avoir contribué à une amplification du biais de sélection possible.



### 2.2.5 Stratégies pour atténuer le biais de sélection et le biais de survie

Par la nature même d'une étude observationnelle non randomisée, il existe une possibilité intrinsèque d'un important biais d'indication et de sélection par rapport aux patients inclus dans les différents groupes à l'étude. En effet, puisque l'éligibilité des patients pour chacune des modalités de TSR est basée sur les caractéristiques de ceux-ci et influencée par les pratiques cliniques et les perspectives/croyances du personnel soignant et des patients, et que celle-ci s'ajoute en plus au choix final du patient d'opter pour telle ou telle modalité, les différents échantillons selon chaque modalité sont sujets à ces biais. De plus, tel que décrit ci-haut, la définition employée pour identifier les patients incidents pour chacune des modalités peut également avoir une influence sur la sélection des patients. Ainsi, en choisissant de n'inclure que les patients en HDD au jour 90 après le début de la dialyse (plutôt, par exemple, d'étendre cette définition à une période plus prolongée suite à l'initiation de la dialyse), on pourrait amplifier ce biais de sélection en ne s'intéressant qu'à un groupe particulier de patients en HDD ayant été en mesure de débuter une thérapie à domicile très rapidement après le début de la dialyse.

Aussi, chez les patients ayant bénéficié d'une transplantation rénale, les sous-catégories de patients selon le type du donneur (donneur vivant, donneur standard, donneur à critères étendus) diffèrent aussi de manière intrinsèque puisque l'allocation des donneurs est également basée sur certaines caractéristiques des patients.

Dans la comparaison présentée dans le troisième article, en plus de ces biais de sélection, un biais de survie est également surajouté. Le biais de survie (*immortal time bias*) est ici présent dans le cas de la comparaison de patients nouvellement sous HDD avec des nouveaux receveurs de transplantation rénale, précédemment traités par la dialyse. En effet, les patients nouvellement greffés devaient avoir vraisemblablement survécu pendant une certaine durée de temps en dialyse avant d'être inclus dans la cohorte des receveurs de transplantation rénale.

De plus, ce temps de survie des patients greffés est également plus ou moins important selon le type de donneur. Effectivement, la plupart des patients recevant une transplantation rénale d'un donneur vivant ne passeront que peu de temps en dialyse avant la greffe. Par opposition, chez un patient dont le temps d'attente pour une greffe a été prolongé (par exemple, un patient avec un profil d'anticorps défavorable), il est possible qu'un rein d'un donneur à critères étendus soit accepté si la compatibilité immunologique est bonne.

Afin de minimiser ces différents biais, diverses stratégies ont été employées. Tout d'abord, les analyses multivariées ont été employées en incluant et en excluant la durée de temps passée en dialyse avant l'entrée des patients dans leur cohorte respective (*dialysis vintage*). En effet, puisque cette durée peut être influencée par la cohorte elle-même, les autres variables intégrées au modèle multivarié visent également à un ajustement entre les groupes et cette correction pourrait s'avérer redondante. Ensuite, une analyse n'incluant que les patients greffés ayant passé 90 jours ou moins en dialyse avant leur transplantation rénale a été utilisée. Finalement, des analyses utilisant un score de propension pour comparer chacun des sous-groupes de receveurs de transplantation rénale aux patients en HDD ont été employées. Les détails de ces analyses sont expliqués dans le manuscrit correspondant.

## **3 – Effet des caractéristiques des patients et des centres sur le recours à la dialyse à domicile**

### **3.1 Sommaire du premier article**

Les thérapies de dialyse à domicile (HDD et DP) sont sous-utilisées dans de nombreux pays et de grandes variations dans le recours à la dialyse à domicile sont observées entre les juridictions, mais également entre les centres de dialyse.

L'article qui suit s'intéresse aux facteurs associés aux patients et aux centres qui sont associés à l'utilisation de la dialyse à domicile en Australie et en Nouvelle-Zélande. De plus, cette étude visait à déterminer si ces variations entre les centres ne sont expliquées que par les caractéristiques des patients ou si les caractéristiques au niveau des centres y contribuent (effet de centre ou *centre effect*).

Pour ce faire, le registre ANZDATA a permis d'inclure 54 773 patients ayant initié la dialyse entre 1997 et 2017 en Australie et en Nouvelle-Zélande, dont 24 399 (45%) étaient traités par dialyse à domicile dans les 6 premiers mois suivant le début de la dialyse.

Cette étude a démontré que le recours à la dialyse à domicile était très variable entre les 76 centres évalués et qu'au-delà des caractéristiques propres aux patients, des facteurs spécifiques aux centres étaient associés à cette variabilité entre les différents centres en ANZ.

Le manuscrit ci-dessous a été publié dans le journal *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation*, Volume 35, Issue 11, Novembre 2020, pages 1938-1949. Il avait précédemment été publié en ligne le 7 février 2020. doi: 10.1093/ndt/gfaa002

Je suis la 1<sup>ère</sup> auteure de cet article. J'ai joué un rôle central dans l'élaboration de la question de recherche, l'analyse des données, l'interprétation des résultats et la rédaction du manuscrit, en plus de la conception des tableaux et figures.

Un éditorial intitulé « *Home based therapies: can wishes be realised?* », par Angel Argilés et Peter G Kerr, en lien avec cet article, a également été publié dans la même édition du journal *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation*, pages 1836-1839, et précédemment publié en ligne en date du 10 juillet 2020. doi: 10.1093/ndt/gfaa082

## 3.2 Article 1 – Effect of patient- and center-level characteristics on uptake of home dialysis in Australia and New Zealand: a multi-center registry analysis

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**Running headline:** Role of center in uptake of home dialysis

**Key Words:** Center effects, Home dialysis, Home hemodialysis, Peritoneal dialysis, Practice patterns

## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Home-based dialysis therapies, home hemodialysis (HHD) and peritoneal dialysis (PD), are underutilized in many countries and significant variation in uptake of home dialysis exists across dialysis centers. This study aimed to evaluate the patient- and center-level characteristics associated with uptake of home dialysis.

**Methods:** The Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant (ANZDATA) Registry was used to include incident dialysis patients in Australia and New Zealand from 1997 to 2017. Uptake of home dialysis was defined as any HHD or PD treatment reported to ANZDATA within 6 months of dialysis initiation. Characteristics associated with home dialysis uptake were evaluated using mixed-effects logistic regression models with patient- and center-level covariates and era as fixed effects and dialysis center as a random effect.

**Results:** Overall, 54 773 patients were included. Uptake of home-based dialysis was reported in 24 399 (45%) patients but varied between 0 and 87% across the 76 centers. Patient-level factors associated with lower uptake included male sex, ethnicity (particularly indigenous peoples), older age, presence of comorbidities, late referral to a nephrology service, remote residence and obesity. Center-level predictors of lower uptake included small center size, smaller proportion of patients with permanent access at dialysis initiation and lower weekly facility HD hours. The variation in odds of home dialysis uptake across centers increased by 3% after adjusting for era and patient-level characteristics but decreased by 24% after adjusting for center-level characteristics.

**Conclusion:** Center-specific factors are associated with the variation in uptake of home dialysis across centers in Australia and New Zealand.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Home-based dialysis therapies, home hemodialysis (HHD) and peritoneal dialysis (PD), are underutilized in many countries and significant variation exists in the uptake of home dialysis across dialysis centers. American<sup>(67)</sup><sup>(68)</sup> and Canadian<sup>(69)</sup> studies have shown that disparities exist in the use of home dialysis with respect to patient-level factors, such as race and ethnicity. Previous publications have also shown appreciable variation in clinical outcomes in PD across centers within Australia.<sup>(70)</sup><sup>(71)</sup><sup>(72)</sup> In late 2017, the National Kidney Foundation—Kidney Dialysis Outcomes Quality Initiative (NKF-KDOQI) sponsored a home dialysis conference aimed at identifying the barriers for successful start and maintenance of patients on home-based dialysis.<sup>(73)</sup> Discussions from this conference identified clinical, operational, policy and societal barriers and facilitators to home-based therapies.<sup>(73)</sup> In a study of 72 centers in the United Kingdom between 2007 and 2008, home dialysis use was associated with both individual patient characteristics, such as age, ethnicity and socio-economic status, and center factors, such as physician enthusiasm (as determined by surveying 2-3 nephrologists per center), but was limited by having a small number of HHD patients represented (n=123).<sup>(74)</sup> Importantly, there have been no studies examining patient- and center-specific factors associated with uptake of home-based dialysis in Australia and New Zealand,<sup>(75)</sup><sup>(76)</sup> where utilization of both HHD and PD is higher than in Canada<sup>(77)</sup> and the United States.<sup>(78)</sup>

The aim of this study was to evaluate the patient- and center-level characteristics associated with the uptake of home-based dialysis in Australia and New Zealand from 1997 to 2017.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **Study Population**

The study included adult ( $\geq 18$  years) patients with end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) who commenced dialysis for the first time in Australia and New Zealand between January 1, 1997 and

December 31, 2017. An individual patient was only included once. Incident home-based dialysis patients were defined as patients with any episode of PD or HHD within the first six months after dialysis start reported to the Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant (ANZDATA) Registry. Patients who commenced dialysis following kidney transplant allograft failure were included. Patients who started dialysis in centers where home-based dialysis was not available, defined as centers from which neither incident nor prevalent home-based dialysis patients were reported to ANZDATA during the whole study period, were excluded. This study used de-identified data from ANZDATA with permission granted by the ANZDATA executive and was approved by the Metro South Human Research Ethics Committee (LNR/2019/QMS/52180). The study was conducted in accordance with STROBE guidelines.(79)

### **Patient-Level Characteristics**

Patient-level baseline characteristics were examined at dialysis initiation. For Australian patients, socio-economic position reported as Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) and remoteness area according to the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA; categorized as major cities, regional or remote) were also examined.

### **Center-Level Characteristics**

For each patient, dialysis center was defined as the center at dialysis initiation, irrespective of subsequent transfer to another center. Center-level characteristics analyzed in this study were transplantation center, center size (calculated as mean annual number of incident dialysis patients in the center), mean annual proportion of incident dialysis patients with a permanent dialysis access at dialysis initiation (arteriovenous fistula or graft when commenced hemodialysis, or Tenckhoff catheter in place when commenced peritoneal dialysis; used as a proxy of dialysis preparation processes/pre-dialysis care), mean annual facility HD weekly treatment hours, mean annual proportion of HD patients on hemodiafiltration (HDF), and mean annual proportions of patients achieving target solute clearance (defined as urea reduction ratio [URR] or Kt/v within



contemporary Caring for Australasians with Renal Insufficiency [CARI] guidelines(80) target) and target hemoglobin.(81) Mean annual proportion of prevalent dialysis patients on home-based therapies (PD and HHD) was also examined in alternative models.

## **Era**

Era of dialysis initiation was evaluated as a separate covariate. Era was subdivided into 2 periods, 1997 to 2005 and 2006 to 2017, with the earlier period used as the reference group. This subdivision was based on the 2005 Australian national incentive aimed at achieving a higher target of dialysis services to be delivered as home-based therapies.

## **Study Outcomes**

The primary outcome of this study was uptake of home-based dialysis, defined as any reported episode of HHD or PD within the first six months after dialysis initiation. Secondary outcomes were uptake of HHD and uptake of PD, both within the first six months after dialysis commencement, analyzed separately.

## **Statistical Analyses**

Patient-level baseline characteristics were expressed as frequency (percentage) for categorical variables and median (interquartile range) for non-normally distributed continuous variables. Center-level characteristics were all expressed as median (interquartile range), irrespective of their distribution, to allow easier comparison with analysis subsequently made using quartile subcategories based on all incident dialysis patients.

## PRIMARY AND SECONDARY OUTCOMES

The primary and secondary outcomes were analyzed by multilevel mixed-effects logistic regression models with patient- and center-level covariates as fixed effects and dialysis center as a random effect, such that patients were nested within centers. Patient-level characteristics were included in the multivariable analysis (first model) if  $P < 0.2$  in the univariate analyses. Covariates in the first model, center-level characteristics with  $P < 0.2$  in univariate analysis and era were then included in the final model as fixed effects.

## SENSITIVITY ANALYSES

To evaluate whether an era effect was due to differences in patient-level characteristics rather than an effect based on health care policies, a sensitivity analysis was performed separately on subsets of patients from the two eras, instead of fitting era as a fixed effect in the final model. The patients' characteristics between the two eras were also examined. To account for a possible effect of different state policies or practice patterns on uptake of home dialysis, multiple sensitivity analyses were performed. First, state was included in the final model as a fixed effect. Second, we used an alternative multilevel mixed-effects logistic regression model with patient- and center-level covariates as fixed effects, and dialysis center and state as random intercepts, wherein patients were nested within centers, and centers within states. In both analyses, New Zealand was reported as a "state". To account for possible differences in practice patterns between Australia and New Zealand, additional analyses were performed separately for both countries. As IRSAD and remoteness area data were not available for patients from New Zealand, an additional analysis was performed for the Australian cohort in which IRSAD and remoteness area categories were subsequently added to the final model at the patient level. Finally, sensitivity analyses were done using a different definition of incident home-based patients to include all patients with any episode of PD or HHD within the first 12 months after dialysis start reported to ANZDATA.

## CENTER VARIATION

Percentage reduction in the variation in odds for uptake of home dialysis across centers due to era and patient-level characteristics was calculated as the ratio of the difference in standard deviation (SD) of center odds between an unadjusted model and a patient-level characteristics and era adjusted model divided by the standard deviation of center odds for the unadjusted model:  $[(SD_{\text{unadjusted}} - SD_{\text{patient}})/SD_{\text{unadjusted}}] \times 100$ . Percentage reduction in the variation in odds for uptake of home dialysis across centers due to center-level characteristics was calculated similarly to that for the patient-level characteristics model:  $[(SD_{\text{patient}} - SD_{\text{center}})/SD_{\text{patient}}] \times 100$ .

All data were analyzed using Stata (version 15.1; StataCorp LLC, Texas, USA).  $P < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

## RESULTS

### Population characteristics

After excluding 960 patients from 20 centers where home-based dialysis was not available, the study included 54 773 incident dialysis patients from 76 centers (Figure 1) for the period of 1 January 1997 to 31 December 2017. From this cohort, 24 399 patients had at least one home dialysis treatment reported to ANZDATA within 6 months of dialysis initiation (2827 on HHD and 21 572 on PD). A total of 27 849 (51%) patients were reported as undergoing home-based dialysis at some point during the whole study period. Therefore, home-based dialysis commenced within six months of first dialysis in 88% (59% of HHD patients and 94% of PD patients) of patients ever on a home-based therapy (Supplemental Table S1). The baseline characteristics of the patients and the center characteristics are presented in Tables 1 and 2, respectively.

## **Predictors of home-based dialysis uptake**

In a multivariable mixed-effects logistic regression model, all patients' characteristics described in Table 1 showed a statistically significant association with uptake of home-based dialysis within six months of dialysis initiation at the patient-level, except previous failed transplantation before dialysis commencement. Therefore, this variable was not included in the final model. In the final mixed-effects logistic regression model, male sex, older age, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Māori and Pacific Islander ethnicity versus Caucasian, late referral to nephrologist care, current smoking, extremes of body mass index (BMI <18.5 and  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>) and comorbidities (coronary artery disease, peripheral artery disease, cerebrovascular disease, type 2 diabetes mellitus, chronic lung disease, history of non-skin cancer) were associated with lower uptake of home-based dialysis. Higher estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) at dialysis initiation, Asian ethnicity and BMI between 25-29.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup> were all associated with higher uptake of home-based dialysis (Table 3A). Small center size ( $\leq 39$  incident dialysis patients per year), smaller proportion ( $\leq 46\%$ ) of patients with a permanent dialysis access at dialysis initiation and lower weekly facility HD hours ( $\leq 12.6$ h) were also predictors of lower uptake of home-based dialysis (Table 3A; Figure 2). Results from the alternative model including the mean annual proportion of prevalent home-based patients of the total dialysis population at the center level are presented in Supplemental Table S2.

The proportion of incident patients on home-based therapies within six months of dialysis commencement varied between 0 and 87% across centers (median 38%, interquartile range 22-48%). Variation in the odds of uptake of home dialysis within six months of dialysis initiation across centers was increased by 3% after adjusting for era and patient-level characteristics, compared to the unadjusted model, but reduced by 24% after additional adjusting for center-level characteristics (Figure 3; Table 4).

### **Predictors of HHD uptake and PD uptake**

Predictors of HHD uptake and PD uptake analyzed separately were similar at the center level using the same final multilevel mixed-effects logistic regression model as for the primary outcome. However, a lower proportion ( $\leq 46\%$ ) of permanent access at dialysis initiation was associated with lower uptake of PD, whereas a higher proportion ( $> 55\%$ ) was associated with an approximately two-fold increase in uptake of HHD (Table 3B). Similar results were also found using the alternative model (Supplemental Table S2). Some differences were observed in the uptake of HHD versus PD at the patient level. Male sex predicted a 2-fold increase in uptake of HHD, whereas it was associated with lower uptake of PD. Polycystic kidney disease was a predictor of higher uptake of HHD but lower uptake of PD. All non-Caucasian ethnicity was associated with lower uptake of HHD, whilst Asian ethnicity was a predictor of higher uptake of PD. Late referral to nephrologist care was associated with much lower uptake of HHD than of PD (OR=0.37 vs 0.77). Whereas uptake of PD by obese patients was less likely, BMI  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> was associated with a 2-fold increase in uptake of HHD compared to a normal BMI. Type 1 diabetes was associated with lower uptake of HHD but higher uptake of PD, although only 105 patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus were included in the HHD cohort. History of non-skin cancer was associated with higher uptake of HHD, based on 252 patients, but lower PD uptake.

### **Uptake of home-based dialysis over time**

In the final multilevel model, in which era of dialysis commencement was fitted as a categorical fixed effect variable, the most recent era was associated with a lower uptake of home-based dialysis, and of HHD and PD when analyzed separately (Table 3). An alternative model defining date of dialysis initiation as a continuous variable showed similar results. During the first era [1997-2005], 49% of patients were part of the home-based cohort, compared to 42% of patients in the most recent era [2006-2017] (Supplemental Figure S1). Baseline characteristics of all patients and home cohort patients, stratified by era, are presented in Supplemental Table S3. In a sensitivity analysis using the final model for each era, all results were globally the same between both eras; small differences in the magnitude of associations of patients' characteristics with

uptake of home-based dialysis were mostly related to changes in the dialysis population characteristics over time. Center-level characteristics predicting uptake of home dialysis were the same as in the main model, although the proportion of permanent access at dialysis initiation was statistically significant only in the most recent era (Supplemental Table S4).

### **Uptake of home-based dialysis by state/country**

Overall, results from the sensitivity analyses accounting for state were consistent with the main model (Supplemental Table S5). A separate analysis was performed for both Australia and New Zealand (Supplemental Table S6). In the Australian population, an additional model was used to incorporate socioeconomic position (IRSAD) and remoteness at the patient level. Similar results were obtained compared to the main model, except for the proportion of patients with a permanent access at dialysis initiation, which was no longer statistically significant. In the additional model, socioeconomic position (IRSAD) was not associated with uptake of home dialysis, whereas remoteness was a strong predictor, such that the odds of uptake increased with increasing distance from major cities (OR=1.56 in regional area and 2.99 in remote area, compared to major cities).

### **Alternative outcome: home-based dialysis uptake within 12 months of dialysis initiation**

As can be seen in Supplemental Table S1, 94% of patients had at least one episode of home-based dialysis reported within 12 months after dialysis initiation (79% of patients ever on HHD; 97% of patients ever on PD). In the alternative model in which the outcome was defined as uptake of home-based dialysis within 12 months of dialysis initiation, the only notable difference in results from the main model was the proportion of patients with a permanent access at dialysis initiation, which was no longer significant at the center level (Supplemental Table S7).

## DISCUSSION

This registry study showed that center characteristics accounted for a substantial part of the appreciable variation in uptake of home-based dialysis (ranging from 0 to 87%) across centers. Small center size, smaller proportion of patients with permanent access at dialysis initiation and lower weekly facility HD hours were identified as predictors of lower uptake of home-based dialysis (Figure 4), and similar results were found when HHD and PD uptake were analyzed separately. In an alternative model, the proportion of prevalent dialysis patients on home-based therapies was also a predictor of home dialysis uptake with a smaller proportion being associated with lower uptake and higher proportion associated with increased uptake. The variation in odds of home dialysis uptake across centers increased by 3% after adjusting for era and patient-level characteristics but decreased by 24% after adjusting for center-level characteristics. This suggests that variation in home dialysis uptake between centers may be more related to center effects than patient factors.

In keeping with previous registry studies showing associations of both smaller center size and smaller proportion of patients on PD with worse PD patient outcomes, including technique failure<sup>(71)</sup><sup>(82)</sup><sup>(83)</sup><sup>(84)</sup><sup>(85)</sup> and peritonitis risk,<sup>(70)</sup><sup>(72)</sup> our study provides evidence that center size (examined as mean annual incident dialysis patients or proportion of prevalent dialysis patients on home-based therapies) is a strong predictor of uptake of home dialysis. Our study also supports the findings of a UK Renal Registry trial by Castledine et al. in which home dialysis use was associated with better permanent access service, but not with transplantation.<sup>(74)</sup> The UK study further observed that higher home-based dialysis uptake was associated with other center characteristics, such as greater physician enthusiasm for home dialysis, use of acute start PD, and use of home visits to educate. These center characteristics, which were not available in the ANZDATA Registry, were ascertained in the UK study by surveying a small number of selected nephrologists within centers and so were potentially subject to selection and response biases. The study also had low numbers of patients on home HD (n=123), such that the findings were mainly applicable to PD.

A novel finding of the present study was the observed association between lower weekly facility HD hours and lower uptake of home-based dialysis. This could be explained by a lack of resources dedicated to dialysis in some centers, rather than specifically of infrastructure for home therapies. The finding might also have been influenced by differences in clinical practice in New Zealand, where the prevalence of both home-based therapies is higher than in Australia and weekly facility HD hours are also longer. In our study, median weekly facility HD hours was 13.7 hours (min 12.6; max 15.6) in New Zealand compared to 13 hours (min 9.6; max 15.5) in Australia, which precluded any patient in New Zealand from being in the lowest weekly facility HD hours quartile for the overall analysis. In a sensitivity analysis accounting for state (in which New Zealand was considered as a “state”), weekly facility HD hours were no longer significantly associated with home dialysis uptake (Supplemental Table S5).

The present study results suggest that a center’s experience and resources devoted to pre-dialysis care, including permanent access placement, may have had an impact on home dialysis uptake. This is in line with the findings of two Australian surveys evaluating nephrologists’(86) and nurses’(87) perspectives on home dialysis, in which lack of infrastructure for training, support and education was reported as a major impediment to increased utilization of home-based therapies. Similarly, the NKF-KDOQI Conference Outcomes Report on home dialysis(73) also identified lack of adequate infrastructure and trained staff as important barriers leading to underutilization of home dialysis.

It is difficult to disentangle cause and consequence from this observational analysis between the proportion of a permanent access at dialysis initiation and uptake of home dialysis. It may be that presence of permanent access does enhance home-based therapies or could reflect the policy of the center to only take patients with well-functioning access, or both. Information on the latter policy of centers is not available from ANZDATA. As proportion of permanent access was no longer significant in the additional analysis using the alternative definition of incident home dialysis including patients on home therapies within 12 months of dialysis initiation, this supports the



concept that earlier initiation of home dialysis occurs when a permanent access is in place. Center policies on the presence of a well-functioning access as a prerequisite for home therapies may vary across units, mainly regarding HHD, for which some centers are willing to initiate home therapy with a temporary vascular access and retrain patients later on needing an AVF/AVG if it is eventually created. Strategies aimed at improving the uptake of home dialysis could be targeted towards increasing access placement in the predialysis setting but also perhaps on less restrictive policies on the mandatory type of access for home therapy commencement.

In Australia, HHD accounted for a large proportion of dialysis patients in the 1970s but decreased significantly until 2005. This trend is likely to be related to the uptake of the newly established technique of PD in the 1980s, the growth of satellite facilities (which affected the drive to prioritize home-based therapies),(88) the increasing comorbidity of patients and the changes in funding models for home dialysis. Funding models and policies introduced around 2005 incentivized the growth in home dialysis.(88)·(89)·(90)·(91)·(92) This 2005 national incentive informed the cutoff point to define eras in our study. The proportion of patients on home dialysis had continued to fall in the period from 1997 to 2005 but stabilized thereafter.

In keeping with the findings of previous studies, the present investigation identified a number of patient characteristics that were associated with lower uptake of home-based dialysis, including ethnicity (particularly indigenous ethnicity),(67)·(68) older age,(72)·(93)·(94)·(95) comorbidities,(74)·(93)·(94)·(95) late referral,(95)·(96)·(97) remoteness,(74) and obesity(98) (Figure 4). Our study also showed male sex as being a strong predictor of HHD uptake, which is supported by data from a Canadian study.(99) Although a UK study has previously identified an association between socioeconomic disadvantage and lower uptake of home-based dialysis,(74) this was not found in the present study in Australia and New Zealand where there is also universal health coverage for home-based dialysis.

This registry study is one of the few studies to have examined the association between center characteristics and home dialysis use. Its strengths include its large sample size (including both HHD and PD patients), long follow-up duration, and robust findings across a variety of statistical models and sensitivity analyses using well-established statistical methods.

However, these strengths should be balanced with this study's limitations, which included limited depth of registry data collection. Important patient and center characteristics that might have been relevant to home dialysis uptake, such as distance of patient residence from the clinic, pre-dialysis education programs, home visits by the medical or nursing staff, nurse-to-patient ratios, dialysis center saturation, catheter insertion by nephrologists, patient independence, presence of a support person at home, and patient educational level, were not available. Moreover, coding bias and residual confounding could not be excluded. This study included all patients with at least one episode of home treatment reported to ANZDATA, regardless of the time spent on that modality. Therefore, maintenance of home dialysis was not evaluated. Finally, this study of the Australian and New Zealand dialysis population, where home therapies are widely used, may not be generalizable to other countries.

In conclusion, this study identified center-specific factors associated with the variation in uptake of home dialysis across centers in Australia and New Zealand. Strategies aimed at modifying some of those factors, such as resources to optimize the proportion of incident patients with a permanent access at dialysis initiation and less restrictive center policies on access requirements to initiate home hemodialysis, may help to increase the uptake of home-based therapies. Exploration of ways to support smaller centers to increase the uptake of home therapies is important. The ideal models of care will likely vary across centers, mainly through assistance from a parent center or targeted resources towards physical infrastructure for training, support and education. Policies and funding models incentivizing home dialysis also appear to be fundamental in promoting home therapies.

## Article 1 – Tables and Figures

**Table 1.** Baseline patient characteristics.

| Characteristics   | Home within 6 months | Never home within 6 months | P value (Home vs never home) | HHD within 6 months | PD within 6 months | P value (HHD vs PD) |
|---|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>N=</b>   | <b>24 399</b>        | <b>30 374</b>              |                              | <b>2827</b>         | <b>21 572</b>      |                     |
| <b>Era</b>  |                      |                            | <0.001                       |                     |                    | 0.02                |
| 1997-2005   | 9464 (39%)           | 9889 (33%)                 |                              | 1156 (41%)          | 8308 (39%)         |                     |
| 2006-2017   | 14935 (61%)          | 20485 (67%)                |                              | 1671 (59%)          | 13264 (61%)        |                     |
| <b>Age at first dialysis (years)</b>                      | 60 (48-70)           | 63 (51-73)                 | <0.001                       | 51 (42-59)          | 61 (50-71)         | <0.001              |
| <b>Male sex</b>   | 14593 (60%)          | 18583 (61%)                | 0.001                        | 2113 (75%)          | 12480 (58%)        | <0.001              |
| <b>eGFR* at first dialysis (mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>)</b> | 7.41 (5.53-9.77)     | 7.14 (5.23-9.68)           | <0.001                       | 7.03 (5.39-9.10)    | 7.46 (5.55-9.85)   | <0.001              |
| <b>Primary kidney disease</b>                             |                      |                            | <0.001                       |                     |                    | <0.001              |
| Diabetic nephropathy                                      | 8325 (34%)           | 11330 (37%)                |                              | 653 (23%)           | 7672 (36%)         |                     |
| Glomerulonephritis  | 6273 (26%)           | 6218 (20%)                 |                              | 985 (35%)           | 5288 (25%)         |                     |
| Reflux nephropathy  | 774 (3%)             | 679 (2%)                   |                              | 139 (5%)            | 635 (3%)           |                     |
| Polycystic disease  | 1629 (7%)            | 1537 (5%)                  |                              | 442 (16%)           | 1187 (6%)          |                     |
| Hypertension  | 3227 (13%)           | 4198 (14%)                 |                              | 199 (7%)            | 3028 (14%)         |                     |
| Other   | 2705 (11%)           | 4370 (14%)                 |                              | 296 (10%)           | 2409 (11%)         |                     |
| Uncertain   | 1329 (5%)            | 1699 (6%)                  |                              | 94 (3%)             | 1235 (6%)          |                     |
| Not reported  | 137 (1%)             | 343 (1%)                   |                              | 19 (1%)             | 118 (1%)           |                     |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>  |                      |                            | <0.001                       |                     |                    | <0.001              |
| Caucasian   | 16435 (67%)          | 21093 (69%)                |                              | 2122 (75%)          | 14313 (66%)        |                     |
| ATSI  | 1297 (5%)            | 3359 (11%)                 |                              | 79 (3%)             | 1218 (6%)          |                     |
| Māori   | 1989 (8%)            | 1503 (5%)                  |                              | 211 (7%)            | 1778 (8%)          |                     |
| Pacific Islander  | 1212 (5%)            | 1561 (5%)                  |                              | 156 (6%)            | 1056 (5%)          |                     |
| Asian   | 2727 (11%)           | 1918 (6%)                  |                              | 180 (6%)            | 2547 (12%)         |                     |
| Other   | 556 (2%)             | 613 (2%)                   |                              | 61 (2%)             | 495 (2%)           |                     |
| Not reported  | 183 (1%)             | 327 (1%)                   |                              | 18 (1%)             | 165 (1%)           |                     |
| <b>State at KRT start</b>                                 |                      |                            | <0.001                       |                     |                    | <0.001              |
| New South Wales   | 7128 (29%)           | 6831 (22%)                 |                              | 1100 (39%)          | 6028 (28%)         |                     |
| Queensland  | 3700 (15%)           | 4912 (16%)                 |                              | 365 (13%)           | 3335 (15%)         |                     |
| Victoria  | 3960 (16%)           | 6719 (22%)                 |                              | 423 (15%)           | 3537 (16%)         |                     |
| Western Australia   | 1776 (7%)            | 3145 (10%)                 |                              | 96 (3%)             | 1680 (8%)          |                     |
| Tasmania  | 303 (1%)             | 595 (2%)                   |                              | 5 (0%)              | 298 (1%)           |                     |
| Northern Territory  | 248 (1%)             | 1390 (5%)                  |                              | 14 (0%)             | 234 (1%)           |                     |
| ACT   | 331 (1%)             | 668 (2%)                   |                              | 24 (1%)             | 307 (1%)           |                     |
| South Australia   | 1120 (5%)            | 2201 (7%)                  |                              | 78 (3%)             | 2042 (5%)          |                     |
| New Zealand   | 5833 (24%)           | 3913 (13%)                 |                              | 722 (26%)           | 5111 (24%)         |                     |
| <b>IRSAD (Australia only)**</b>                           |                      |                            | 0.001                        |                     |                    | <0.001              |
| Q1 (635-933)  | 4737 (26%)           | 6624 (25%)                 |                              | 453 (22%)           | 4284 (26%)         |                     |
| Q2 (934-983)  | 4730 (26%)           | 6429 (25%)                 |                              | 518 (25%)           | 4212 (26%)         |                     |
| Q3 (984-1039)   | 4568 (25%)           | 6510 (25%)                 |                              | 544 (26%)           | 4024 (25%)         |                     |
| Q4 (1040-1181)  | 4416 (24%)           | 6612 (25%)                 |                              | 564 (27%)           | 3852 (24%)         |                     |

|   |             |             |        |            |             |        |
|---|-------------|-------------|--------|------------|-------------|--------|
| <b>Remoteness area (Australia only)</b>             |             |             | <0.001 |            |             | <0.001 |
| Major cities  | 12414 (67%) | 17340 (66%) |        | 1477 (71%) | 10937 (67%) |        |
| Regional  | 5156 (28%)  | 7031 (27%)  |        | 553 (27%)  | 4603 (28%)  |        |
| Remote  | 885 (5%)    | 1815 (7%)   |        | 50 (2%)    | 835 (5%)    |        |
| <b>Late referral***</b>                             | 4506 (18%)  | 7438 (24%)  | <0.001 | 290 (10%)  | 4216 (20%)  | <0.001 |
| <b>Failed transplant before dialysis initiation</b> | 157 (1%)    | 162 (1%)    | 0.09   | 45 (2%)    | 112 (1%)    | <0.001 |
| <b>Smoking</b>                                      |             |             | <0.001 |            |             | 0.56   |
| Never   | 11453 (47%) | 13333 (44%) |        | 1331 (47%) | 10122 (47%) |        |
| Current   | 3085 (13%)  | 4211 (14%)  |        | 340 (12%)  | 2745 (13%)  |        |
| Former  | 9693 (40%)  | 12397 (41%) |        | 1137 (40%) | 8556 (40%)  |        |
| <b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>                       |             |             | <0.001 |            |             | <0.001 |
| <18.5   | 712 (3%)    | 983 (3%)    |        | 45 (2%)    | 667 (3%)    |        |
| 18.5-24.9   | 8367 (34%)  | 9348 (31%)  |        | 735 (26%)  | 7632 (36%)  |        |
| 25-29.9   | 8222 (34%)  | 8959 (29%)  |        | 851 (31%)  | 7371 (35%)  |        |
| ≥30   | 6832 (28%)  | 10416 (34%) |        | 1159 (42%) | 5673 (27%)  |        |
| <b>Comorbidities</b>                                |             |             |        |            |             |        |
| <b>Diabetes</b>                                     |             |             | <0.001 |            |             | <0.001 |
| Type 1  | 1222 (5%)   | 1047 (3%)   |        | 105 (4%)   | 1117 (5%)   |        |
| Type 2  | 9218 (38%)  | 13862 (46%) |        | 731 (26%)  | 8487 (39%)  |        |
| <b>CAD</b>  | 6863 (28%)  | 10611 (35%) | <0.001 | 449 (16%)  | 6414 (30%)  | <0.001 |
| <b>PVD</b>  | 3826 (16%)  | 6057 (20%)  | <0.001 | 208 (7%)   | 3618 (17%)  | <0.001 |
| <b>CVD</b>  | 2429 (10%)  | 3716 (12%)  | <0.001 | 112 (4%)   | 2317 (11%)  | <0.001 |
| <b>Chronic lung disease</b>                         | 2494 (10%)  | 4470 (15%)  | <0.001 | 212 (8%)   | 2282 (11%)  | <0.001 |
| <b>Non-skin cancer ever</b>                         | 2048 (8%)   | 3789 (12%)  | <0.001 | 252 (9%)   | 1796 (8%)   | <0.001 |

\*eGFR calculated using the MDRD4 formula

\*\*IRSAD scores were subcategorized as quartiles, with the higher scores reflecting higher socioeconomic positions; second and third quartiles were combined and used as the reference group in analyses

\*\*\*Late referral defined as patient seen <3 months before first dialysis treatment

ACT = Australian Capital Territory; ATSI = Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; BMI = Body Mass Index; CAD = coronary artery disease; CVD = cerebrovascular disease; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; HHD = home hemodialysis; IRSAD = Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage; KRT = kidney replacement therapy; N = number; PD = peritoneal dialysis; PVD = peripheral vascular disease; Q = quartile.

Values are expressed as frequency (percentage) for categorical variables, mean ± standard deviation for normally distributed continuous variables, and median (interquartile range) for non-normally distributed continuous variables.

Missing data were 2% or less for all variables evaluated, except eGFR values which were missing in 4% of patients.

**Table 2.** Descriptive statistics for center-level characteristics: included and excluded centers.

| <b>Characteristics</b>   | <b>Included centers<br/>(N=76)</b> | <b>Excluded centers<br/>(N=20)</b> |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Total number of dialysis patients reported by the centers                          | 54 773                             | 960                                |
| Transplant hospital  | 21 (28%)                           | 0 (0%)                             |
| Mean annual proportion of incident dialysis patients with a permanent access       | 52 (46-57)                         | 64 (38-75)                         |
| Mean annual facility HD weekly hours   | 13.1 (12.5-13.8)                   | 12.7 (12.4-13.4)                   |
| Mean annual proportion of HD patients on HDF (in %)                                | 7 (2-16)                           | 17 (3-52)                          |
| Mean annual proportion of patients with target solute clearance (in %)             | 68 (61-73)                         | 81 (73-86)                         |
| Mean annual proportion of patients with target hemoglobin (in %)                   | 38 (35-41)                         | 42 (32-46)                         |
| Center size (mean annual number of incident dialysis patients)                     | 26 (10-50)                         | 3 (2-4)                            |
| Mean annual proportion of prevalent dialysis patients on home-based therapy (in %) | 32 (20-43)                         | 0 (0-0)                            |

% = percentage; HD = hemodialysis; HDF = hemodiafiltration; N = Number.

Values for transplant hospital are expressed as frequency (percentage).

Other values are expressed as median (interquartile range) of the mean annual variable over the study period to allow easier comparison with subsequent analysis since center-level covariates were subcategorized into quartiles based on all incident dialysis patients during the study period (1997-2017) in the main models, with the second and third quartiles merged to become the reference category.

**Table 3A.** Mixed-effects logistic regression analysis of uptake of home dialysis within 6 months of dialysis initiation, expressed as odds ratio, for the period 1997-2017.

| Characteristics                      | HOME DIALYSIS<br>WITHIN 6 MONTHS |             |         |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|---------|
|                                      | OR                               | 95% CI      | P value |
| <b>Era</b>                           |                                  |             |         |
| 1997-2005                            | Ref                              |             |         |
| 2006-2017                            | 0.79                             | (0.75-0.82) | <0.001  |
| <b>PATIENT-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS</b> |                                  |             |         |
| <b>Age at first dialysis (years)</b> | 0.99                             | (0.99-0.99) | <0.001  |
| <b>Male sex</b>                      | 0.91                             | (0.87-0.94) | <0.001  |
| <b>eGFR at first dialysis</b>        | 1.02                             | (1.01-1.02) | <0.001  |
| <b>Primary kidney disease</b>        |                                  |             | <0.001  |
| Diabetic nephropathy                 | Ref                              |             |         |
| Glomerulonephritis                   | 1.01                             | (0.94-1.10) | 0.73    |
| Reflux nephropathy                   | 1.04                             | (0.91-1.19) | 0.56    |
| Polycystic disease                   | 1.00                             | (0.90-1.11) | 0.94    |
| Hypertension                         | 0.98                             | (0.90-1.07) | 0.66    |
| Other                                | 0.75                             | (0.68-0.81) | <0.001  |
| Uncertain                            | 1.06                             | (0.96-1.18) | 0.24    |
| Not reported                         | 0.54                             | (0.39-0.76) | <0.001  |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>                     |                                  |             | <0.001  |
| Caucasian                            | Ref                              |             |         |
| ATSI                                 | 0.62                             | (0.56-0.68) | <0.001  |
| Māori                                | 0.88                             | (0.79-0.97) | 0.01    |
| Pacific Islander                     | 0.66                             | (0.59-0.72) | <0.001  |
| Asian                                | 1.48                             | (1.38-1.59) | <0.001  |
| Other                                | 0.95                             | (0.83-1.08) | 0.41    |
| Not reported                         | 0.95                             | (0.72-1.25) | 0.72    |
| <b>Late referral</b>                 | 0.66                             | (0.63-0.69) | <0.001  |
| <b>Smoking</b>                       |                                  |             | <0.001  |
| Never                                | Ref                              |             |         |
| Former                               | 1.02                             | (0.98-1.06) | 0.37    |
| Current                              | 0.87                             | (0.82-0.93) | <0.001  |
| <b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>        |                                  |             | <0.001  |
| <18.5                                | 0.78                             | (0.70-0.87) | <0.001  |
| 18.5-24.9                            | Ref                              |             |         |
| 25-29.9                              | 1.07                             | (1.02-1.12) | 0.005   |
| ≥30                                  | 0.72                             | (0.68-0.75) | <0.001  |
| <b>Comorbidities</b>                 |                                  |             |         |
| <b>Diabetes</b>                      |                                  |             | <0.001  |
| Type 1                               | 1.06                             | (0.94-1.19) | 0.33    |
| Type 2                               | 0.81                             | (0.76-0.87) | <0.001  |
| <b>CAD</b>                           | 0.89                             | (0.85-0.93) | <0.001  |
| <b>PVD</b>                           | 0.85                             | (0.80-0.90) | <0.001  |
| <b>CVD</b>                           | 0.89                             | (0.84-0.95) | <0.001  |
| <b>Chronic lung disease</b>          | 0.72                             | (0.68-0.76) | <0.001  |
| <b>Non-skin cancer ever</b>          | 0.75                             | (0.70-0.80) | <0.001  |

| <b>CENTER-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS</b>   |      |             |        |
|---|------|-------------|--------|
| <b>Transplant hospital</b>  | 0.81 | (0.48-1.41) | 0.48   |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of incident dialysis patients with a permanent access</b> |      |             | 0.03   |
| ≤ 46%   | 0.55 | (0.32-0.95) | 0.03   |
| 47-55%  | Ref  |             |        |
| > 55%   | 1.10 | (0.63-1.90) | 0.74   |
| <b>Mean annual facility HD weekly hours</b>   |      |             | <0.001 |
| ≤ 12.56   | 0.39 | (0.23-0.65) | <0.001 |
| 12.56-13.70   | Ref  |             |        |
| > 13.70   | 1.02 | (0.61-1.69) | 0.95   |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of HD patients on HDF</b>                                 |      |             | 0.03   |
| ≤ 2%  | 1.50 | (0.89-2.55) | 0.13   |
| 3-14%   | Ref  |             |        |
| > 14%   | 0.67 | (0.40-1.12) | 0.12   |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of patients with target solute clearance</b>              |      |             | 0.12   |
| ≤ 59%   | 1.00 | (0.59-1.72) | 0.99   |
| 60-70%  | Ref  |             |        |
| > 70%   | 0.60 | (0.36-1.00) | 0.05   |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of patients with target hemoglobin</b>                    |      |             | 0.53   |
| ≤ 35%   | 0.85 | (0.48-1.50) | 0.57   |
| 36-39%  | Ref  |             |        |
| > 39%   | 0.73 | (0.42-1.26) | 0.26   |
| <b>Center size (mean annual number of incident dialysis patients)</b>               |      |             | 0.009  |
| ≤ 39  | 0.47 | (0.28-0.76) | 0.003  |
| 40-94   | Ref  |             |        |
| > 94  | 0.89 | (0.37-2.12) | 0.79   |

ATSI = Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; BMI = Body Mass Index; CAD = coronary artery disease; CVD = cerebrovascular disease; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; HHD = home hemodialysis; PD = peritoneal dialysis; PVD = peripheral vascular disease; Ref = reference (1.00). All center-level covariates (except transplantation status) are subcategorized into quartiles based on all incident dialysis patients during the study period (1997-2017), with the second and third quartiles merged to become the reference category.

**Table 3B.** Mixed-effects logistic regression analysis of uptake of home hemodialysis and uptake of peritoneal dialysis within 6 months of dialysis initiation, expressed as odds ratio, for the period 1997-2017.

| Characteristics                      | HHD<br>WITHIN 6 MONTHS* |             |         | PD<br>WITHIN 6 MONTHS** |             |         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------|-------------------------|-------------|---------|
|                                      | OR                      | 95% CI      | P value | OR                      | 95% CI      | P value |
| <b>Era</b>                           |                         |             |         |                         |             |         |
| 1997-2005                            | Ref                     |             |         | Ref                     |             |         |
| 2006-2017                            | 0.84                    | (0.77-0.92) | <0.001  | 0.82                    | (0.79-0.86) | <0.001  |
| <b>PATIENT-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS</b> |                         |             |         |                         |             |         |
| <b>Age at first dialysis (years)</b> | 0.96                    | (0.96-0.96) | <0.001  | 1.00                    | (1.00-1.00) | 0.24    |
| <b>Male sex</b>                      | 2.30                    | (2.08-2.53) | <0.001  | 0.77                    | (0.74-0.80) | <0.001  |
| <b>eGFR at first dialysis</b>        | 1.00                    | (0.99-1.01) | 0.55    | 1.02                    | (1.01-1.02) | <0.001  |
| <b>Primary kidney disease</b>        |                         |             | <0.001  |                         |             | <0.001  |
| Diabetic nephropathy                 | Ref                     |             |         | Ref                     |             |         |
| Glomerulonephritis                   | 1.25                    | (1.04-1.52) | 0.02    | 0.95                    | (0.88-1.03) | 0.21    |
| Reflux nephropathy                   | 1.17                    | (0.89-1.53) | 0.27    | 0.97                    | (0.85-1.11) | 0.07    |
| Polycystic disease                   | 2.76                    | (2.23-3.43) | <0.001  | 0.70                    | (0.63-0.78) | <0.001  |
| Hypertension                         | 0.89                    | (0.71-1.11) | 0.30    | 0.97                    | (0.90-1.06) | 0.53    |
| Other                                | 0.98                    | (0.79-1.22) | 0.87    | 0.75                    | (0.68-0.81) | <0.001  |
| Uncertain                            | 0.87                    | (0.66-1.16) | 0.35    | 1.07                    | (0.96-1.18) | 0.23    |
| Not reported                         | 1.10                    | (0.51-2.37) | 0.81    | 0.51                    | (0.36-0.72) | <0.001  |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>                     |                         |             | <0.001  |                         |             | <0.001  |
| Caucasian                            | Ref                     |             |         | Ref                     |             |         |
| ATSI                                 | 0.44                    | (0.33-0.58) | <0.001  | 0.69                    | (0.63-0.76) | <0.001  |
| Māori                                | 0.73                    | (0.60-0.89) | 0.002   | 0.98                    | (0.88-1.08) | 0.62    |
| Pacific Islander                     | 0.64                    | (0.52-0.79) | <0.001  | 0.75                    | (0.68-0.82) | <0.001  |
| Asian                                | 0.64                    | (0.53-0.76) | <0.001  | 1.61                    | (1.50-1.73) | <0.001  |
| Other                                | 0.66                    | (0.49-0.88) | 0.005   | 1.05                    | (0.92-1.19) | 0.49    |
| Not reported                         | 0.42                    | (0.21-0.84) | 0.01    | 1.15                    | (0.87-1.52) | 0.32    |
| <b>Late referral</b>                 | 0.37                    | (0.32-0.42) | <0.001  | 0.77                    | (0.73-0.80) | <0.001  |
| <b>Smoking</b>                       |                         |             | <0.001  |                         |             | 0.01    |
| Never                                | Ref                     |             |         | Ref                     |             |         |
| Former                               | 1.15                    | (1.05-1.26) | 0.003   | 1.01                    | (0.97-1.05) | 0.69    |
| Current                              | 0.86                    | (0.75-0.99) | 0.04    | 0.92                    | (0.87-0.98) | 0.01    |
| <b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>        |                         |             | <0.001  |                         |             | <0.001  |
| <18.5                                | 0.63                    | (0.45-0.89) | 0.008   | 0.83                    | (0.74-0.92) | 0.001   |
| 18.5-24.9                            | Ref                     |             |         | Ref                     |             |         |
| 25-29.9                              | 1.30                    | (1.16-1.45) | <0.001  | 1.03                    | (0.98-1.08) | 0.28    |
| ≥30                                  | 2.22                    | (1.98-2.48) | <0.001  | 0.61                    | (0.58-0.64) | <0.001  |
| <b>Comorbidities</b>                 |                         |             |         |                         |             |         |
| <b>Diabetes</b>                      |                         |             | 0.007   |                         |             | <0.001  |
| Type 1                               | 0.67                    | (0.51-0.88) | 0.005   | 1.20                    | (1.07-1.35) | 0.002   |
| Type 2                               | 0.80                    | (0.67-0.94) | 0.009   | 0.85                    | (0.79-0.91) | <0.001  |
| <b>CAD</b>                           | 0.70                    | (0.62-0.79) | <0.001  | 0.94                    | (0.90-0.98) | 0.008   |
| <b>PVD</b>                           | 0.61                    | (0.52-0.72) | <0.001  | 0.90                    | (0.86-0.95) | <0.001  |
| <b>CVD</b>                           | 0.57                    | (0.47-0.70) | <0.001  | 0.95                    | (0.89-1.01) | 0.101   |
| <b>Chronic lung disease</b>          | 0.86                    | (0.74-1.01) | 0.06    | 0.73                    | (0.69-0.78) | <0.001  |
| <b>Non-skin cancer ever</b>          | 1.28                    | (1.10-1.49) | 0.001   | 0.72                    | (0.67-0.77) | <0.001  |



| <b>CENTER-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS</b>   |      |             |       |      |             |       |
|---|------|-------------|-------|------|-------------|-------|
| <b>Transplant hospital</b>  | 1.11 | (0.63-1.97) | 0.72  | 0.81 | (0.48-1.36) | 0.42  |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of incident dialysis patients with a permanent access</b> |      |             | 0.04  |      |             | 0.04  |
| ≤ 46%   | 1.01 | (0.56-1.83) | 0.96  | 0.54 | (0.32-0.91) | 0.02  |
| 47-55%  | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |       |
| > 55%   | 1.99 | (1.11-3.59) | 0.02  | 0.95 | (0.56-1.62) | 0.86  |
| <b>Mean annual facility HD weekly hours</b>   |      |             | 0.006 |      |             | 0.003 |
| ≤ 12.56   | 0.55 | (0.31-0.97) | 0.04  | 0.44 | (0.26-0.72) | 0.001 |
| 12.56-13.70   | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |       |
| > 13.70   | 1.61 | (0.92-2.81) | 0.09  | 0.96 | (0.59-1.57) | 0.87  |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of HD patients on HDF</b>                                 |      |             | 0.92  |      |             | 0.02  |
| ≤ 2%  | 1.12 | (0.63-2.00) | 0.70  | 1.50 | (0.90-2.50) | 0.12  |
| 3-14%   | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |       |
| > 14%   | 1.08 | (0.61-1.91) | 0.79  | 0.66 | (0.40-1.09) | 0.11  |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of patients with target solute clearance</b>              |      |             | 0.69  |      |             | 0.11  |
| ≤ 59%   | 0.87 | (0.48-1.55) | 0.63  | 1.00 | (0.60-1.68) | 0.99  |
| 60-70%  | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |       |
| > 70%   | 0.79 | (0.45-1.39) | 0.41  | 0.61 | (0.37-1.00) | 0.049 |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of patients with target hemoglobin</b>                    |      |             | 0.52  |      |             | 0.71  |
| ≤ 35%   | 0.83 | (0.44-1.55) | 0.55  | 0.87 | (0.50-1.51) | 0.62  |
| 36-39%  | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |       |
| > 39%   | 0.71 | (0.39-1.28) | 0.25  | 0.80 | (0.47-1.35) | 0.41  |
| <b>Center size (mean annual number of incident dialysis patients)</b>               |      |             | 0.08  |      |             | 0.01  |
| ≤ 39  | 0.58 | (0.34-0.99) | 0.05  | 0.49 | (0.30-0.79) | 0.003 |
| 40-94   | Ref  |             |       |      |             |       |
| > 94  | 1.26 | (0.52-3.06) | 0.61  | 0.88 | (0.38-2.03) | 0.77  |

ATSI = Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; BMI = Body Mass Index; CAD = coronary artery disease; CVD = cerebrovascular disease; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; HHD = home hemodialysis; PD = peritoneal dialysis; PVD = peripheral vascular disease; Ref = reference (1.00). All center-level covariates (except transplantation status) are subcategorized into quartiles based on all incident dialysis patients during the study period (1997-2017), with the second and third quartiles merged to become the reference category.

\*Uptake of HHD within 6 months of kidney replacement therapy initiation in the population of patients with end-stage kidney disease who commenced dialysis

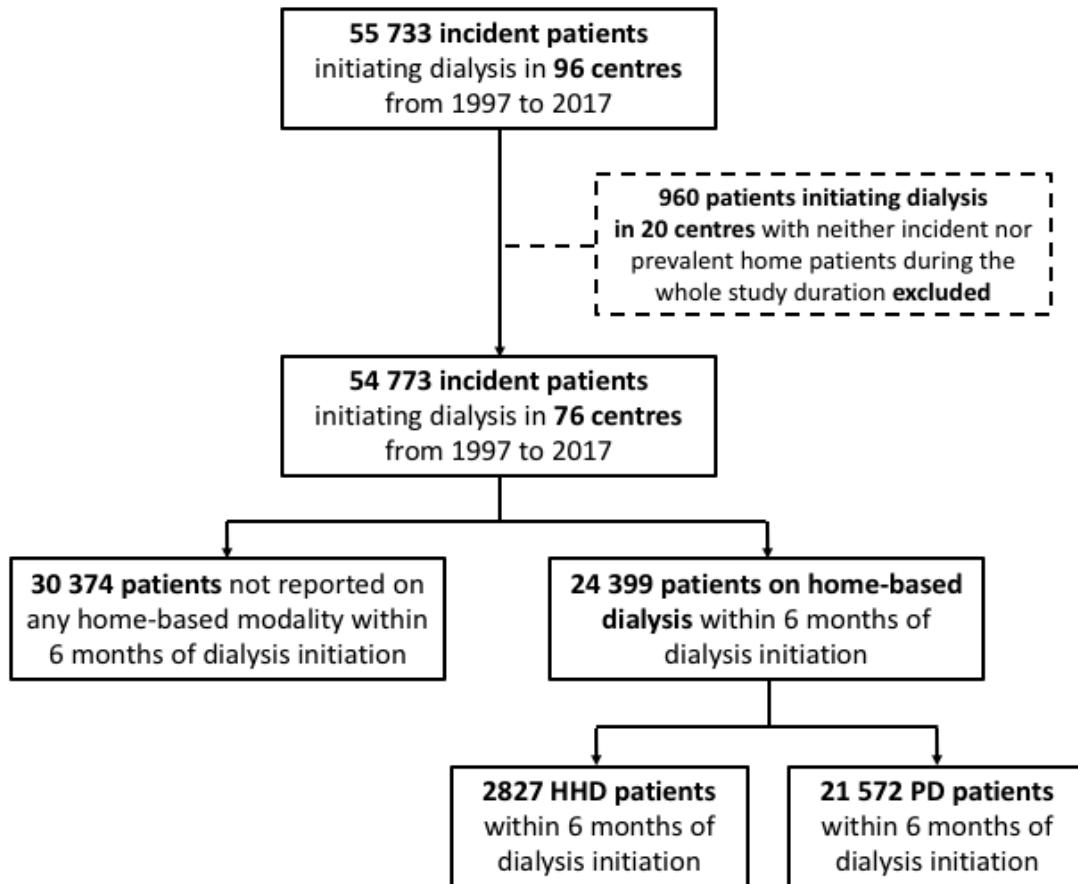
\*\*Uptake of PD within 6 months of kidney replacement therapy initiation in the population of patients with end-stage kidney disease who commenced dialysis

**Table 4.** Standard deviations of center odds ratios of home dialysis uptake from three mixed regression models.

| <b>Variables</b>  |        |
|---|--------|
| SD of center odds ratio from an unadjusted model  | 1.0024 |
| SD of center odds ratio from a model adjusted for era and patient-level characteristics                                     | 1.0331 |
| SD of center odds ratio from a model adjusted for era, patient- and center-level characteristics                            | 0.7832 |
| % change in variation in odds ratios of uptake of home dialysis across centers due to era and patient-level characteristics | +3%    |
| % change in variation in odds ratios of uptake of home dialysis across centers due to center-level characteristics          | -24%   |

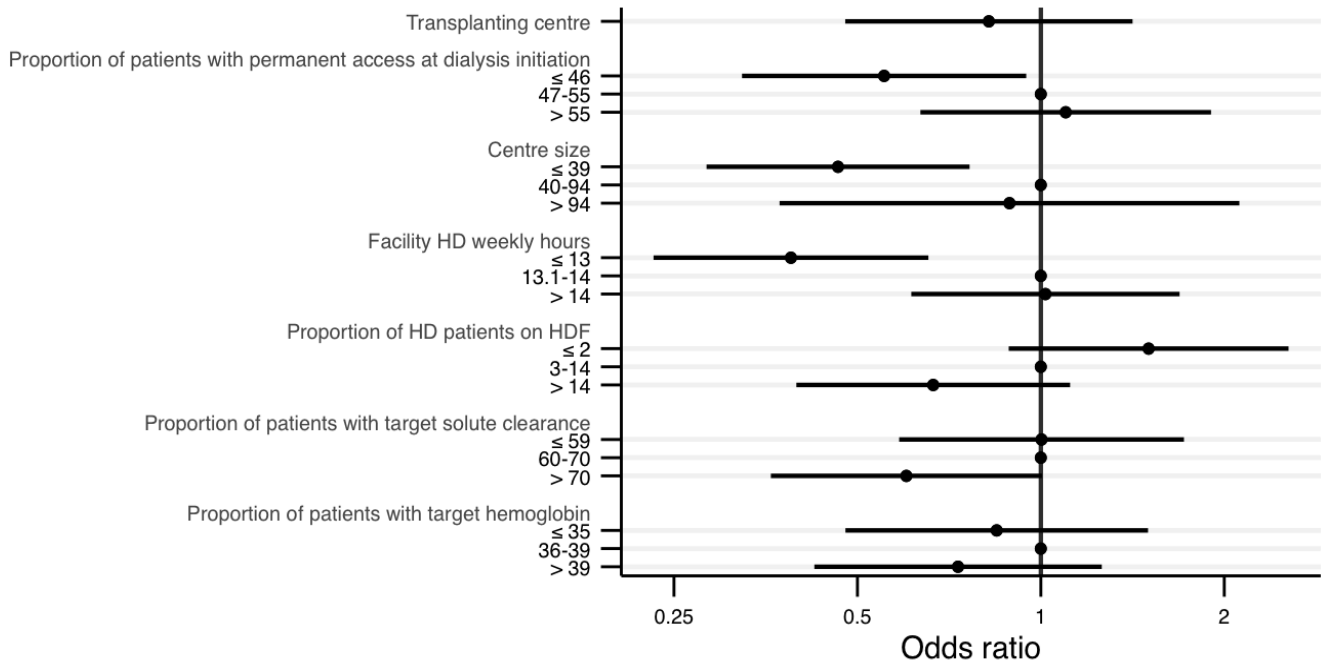
SD = standard deviation; % = percentage

**Figure 1.** Study flow diagram.



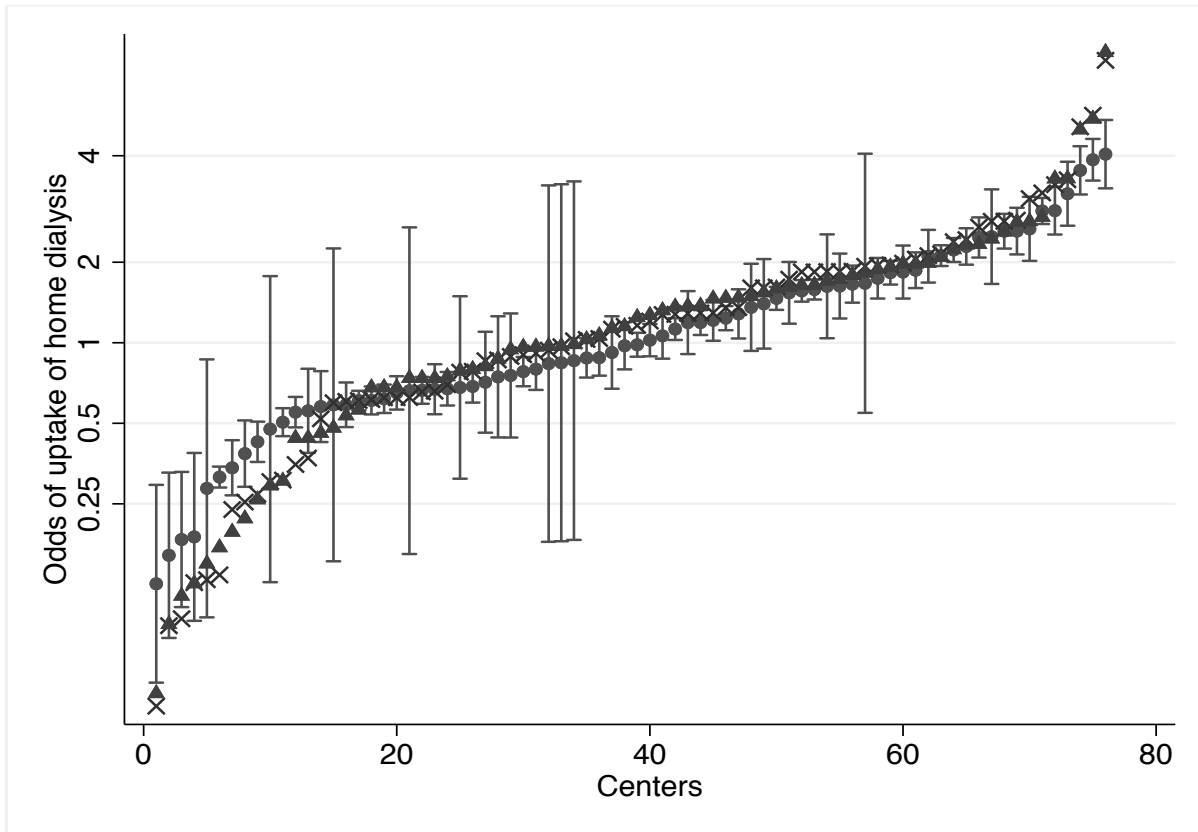
HHD = home hemodialysis; PD = peritoneal dialysis.

**Figure 2.** Forest plots showing the association between center-level characteristics and uptake of home dialysis within 6 months of dialysis initiation after adjusting for patient-level characteristics and era of dialysis commencement.



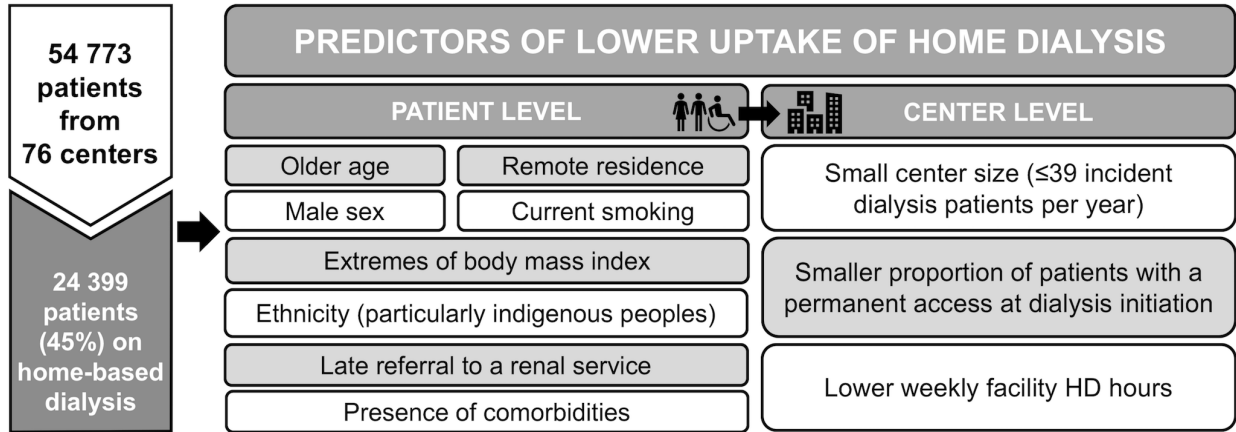
Center-level covariates (except transplantation status) are subcategorized into quartiles based on all incident dialysis patients during the study period (1997-2017), with the second and third quartiles merged to become the reference category. HD = hemodialysis; HDF = hemodiafiltration.

**Figure 3.** Variation in odds of uptake of home dialysis within 6 months of dialysis initiation across 76 centers in Australia and New Zealand during the period of 1997 to 2017 in different models (unadjusted [triangle], adjusted for era and patient-level characteristics [cross], adjusted for era, patient- & center-level characteristics [circle]), with standard errors.

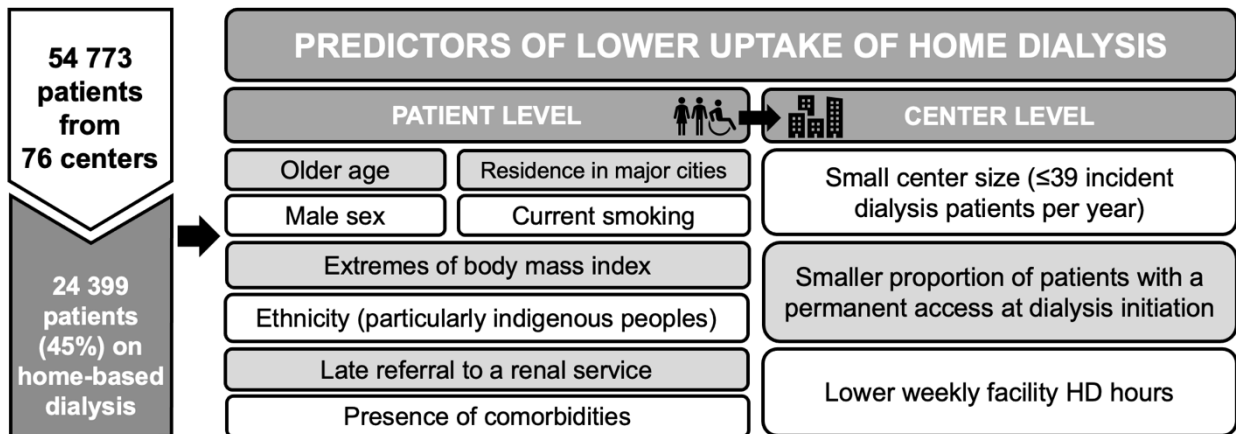


Dialysis centers ranked by odds of uptake of home dialysis within 6 months of dialysis initiation.

**Figure 4.** Summary of the findings on patient- and center-level characteristics associated with lower uptake of home dialysis.



\*\*\* À noter qu'une coquille s'est glissée dans cette figure. L'article ayant déjà été publié sous cette forme, la figure est présentée ci-haut sous sa forme originale. Par contre, l'éditeur sera avisé de cette coquille et la figure alternative suivante lui sera envoyée.



## Article 1 – Supplementary data

**Table S1.** Timing of first episode of a home dialysis therapy reported to ANZDATA after dialysis initiation.

|  | HHD               | PD                 | HOME DIALYSIS      | NOT ON HOME DIALYSIS |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Within 3 months  | 1530 (32%)        | 20071 (87%)        | 21601 (78%)        | 33172                |
| <b>Within 6 months</b>   | <b>2827 (59%)</b> | <b>21572 (94%)</b> | <b>24399 (88%)</b> | <b>30374</b>         |
| Within 9 months  | 3433 (72%)        | 22134 (96%)        | 25567 (92%)        | 29206                |
| Within 12 months   | 3794 (79%)        | 22384 (97%)        | 26178 (94%)        | 28595                |
| Ever during study period   | 4785              | 23064              | 27849              | 26924                |
| Median time to first home dialysis therapy in days (interquartile range) | 144 (74-309)      | 0 (0-33)           | 0 (0-76)           | -----                |

Values are expressed as number of patients (proportion of total patients ever reported on this treatment modality during study period in percentage)

**Table S2.** Alternative model of mixed-effects logistic regression analysis of uptake of home dialysis within 6 months of dialysis initiation, expressed as odds ratio, for the period 1997-2017, including proportion of prevalent patients on home dialysis.

| Characteristics                          | HOME DIALYSIS<br>WITHIN 6 MONTHS |             |         | HHD<br>WITHIN 6 MONTHS |             |         | PD<br>WITHIN 6 MONTHS |             |         |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------|---------|------------------------|-------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
|  | OR                               | 95% CI      | P value | OR                     | 95% CI      | P value | OR                    | 95% CI      | P value |
| <b>Era</b>                               |                                  |             |         |                        |             |         |                       |             |         |
| 1997-2005                                | Ref                              |             |         | Ref                    |             |         | Ref                   |             |         |
| 2006-2017                                | 0.79                             | (0.75-0.82) | <0.001  | 0.84                   | (0.77-0.92) | <0.001  | 0.82                  | (0.79-0.86) | <0.001  |
| <b>PATIENT-LEVEL<br/>CHARACTERISTICS</b> |                                  |             |         |                        |             |         |                       |             |         |
| <b>Age at first dialysis<br/>(years)</b> | 0.99                             | (0.99-0.99) | <0.001  | 0.96                   | (0.96-0.96) | <0.001  | 1.00                  | (1.00-1.00) | 0.23    |
| <b>Male sex</b>                          | 0.91                             | (0.87-0.94) | <0.001  | 2.30                   | (2.08-2.53) | <0.001  | 0.77                  | (0.74-0.80) | <0.001  |
| <b>eGFR at first dialysis</b>            | 1.02                             | (1.01-1.02) | <0.001  | 1.00                   | (0.99-1.01) | 0.55    | 1.02                  | (1.01-1.02) | <0.001  |
| <b>Primary kidney disease</b>            |                                  |             | <0.001  |                        |             | <0.001  |                       |             | <0.001  |
| Diabetic nephropathy                     | Ref                              |             |         | Ref                    |             |         | Ref                   |             |         |
| Glomerulonephritis                       | 1.01                             | (0.94-1.10) | 0.72    | 1.26                   | (1.04-1.52) | 0.02    | 0.95                  | (0.88-1.03) | 0.21    |
| Reflux nephropathy                       | 1.04                             | (0.91-1.19) | 0.56    | 1.17                   | (0.89-1.54) | 0.26    | 0.97                  | (0.85-1.11) | 0.68    |
| Polycystic disease                       | 1.00                             | (0.90-1.11) | 0.95    | 2.77                   | (2.23-3.43) | <0.001  | 0.70                  | (0.63-0.78) | <0.001  |
| Hypertension                             | 0.98                             | (0.91-1.07) | 0.66    | 0.89                   | (0.71-1.11) | 0.31    | 0.97                  | (0.90-1.06) | 0.53    |
| Other                                    | 0.75                             | (0.68-0.81) | <0.001  | 0.98                   | (0.79-1.22) | 0.87    | 0.75                  | (0.68-0.81) | <0.001  |
| Uncertain                                | 1.06                             | (0.96-1.18) | 0.23    | 0.88                   | (0.66-1.16) | 0.36    | 1.07                  | (0.96-1.18) | 0.22    |
| Not reported                             | 0.54                             | (0.39-0.76) | <0.001  | 1.10                   | (0.51-2.37) | 0.81    | 0.51                  | (0.36-0.72) | <0.001  |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>                         |                                  |             | <0.001  |                        |             | <0.001  |                       |             | <0.001  |
| Caucasian                                | Ref                              |             |         | Ref                    |             |         | Ref                   |             |         |
| ATSI                                     | 0.62                             | (0.57-0.68) | <0.001  | 0.44                   | (0.33-0.58) | <0.001  | 0.69                  | (0.63-0.76) | <0.001  |
| Māori                                    | 0.88                             | (0.79-0.97) | 0.009   | 0.73                   | (0.60-0.89) | 0.002   | 0.97                  | (0.88-1.07) | 0.60    |
| Pacific Islander                         | 0.66                             | (0.59-0.72) | <0.001  | 0.64                   | (0.52-0.79) | <0.001  | 0.75                  | (0.68-0.82) | <0.001  |
| Asian                                    | 1.48                             | (1.38-1.59) | <0.001  | 0.64                   | (0.54-0.76) | <0.001  | 1.61                  | (1.50-1.73) | <0.001  |
| Other                                    | 0.95                             | (0.83-1.08) | 0.42    | 0.66                   | (0.50-0.89) | 0.006   | 1.05                  | (0.92-1.19) | 0.48    |
| Not reported                             | 0.95                             | (0.72-1.25) | 0.72    | 0.42                   | (0.21-0.84) | 0.01    | 1.15                  | (0.87-1.52) | 0.32    |
| <b>Late referral</b>                     | 0.66                             | (0.63-0.69) | <0.001  | 0.37                   | (0.32-0.42) | <0.001  | 0.77                  | (0.73-0.80) | <0.001  |
| <b>Smoking</b>                           |                                  |             | <0.001  |                        |             | <0.001  |                       |             | 0.02    |
| Never                                    | Ref                              |             |         | Ref                    |             |         | Ref                   |             |         |
| Former                                   | 1.02                             | (0.98-1.06) | 0.37    | 1.15                   | (1.05-1.26) | 0.003   | 1.01                  | (0.97-1.05) | 0.68    |
| Current                                  | 0.87                             | (0.82-0.93) | <0.001  | 0.86                   | (0.75-0.99) | 0.04    | 0.92                  | (0.87-0.98) | 0.01    |
| <b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>            |                                  |             | <0.001  |                        |             | <0.001  |                       |             | <0.001  |
| <18.5                                    | 0.78                             | (0.70-0.87) | <0.001  | 0.63                   | (0.45-0.89) | 0.008   | 0.83                  | (0.74-0.92) | 0.001   |
| 18.5-24.9                                | Ref                              |             |         | Ref                    |             |         | Ref                   |             |         |
| 25-29.9                                  | 1.07                             | (1.02-1.12) | 0.005   | 1.30                   | (1.16-1.45) | <0.001  | 1.03                  | (0.98-1.08) | 0.28    |
| ≥30                                      | 0.72                             | (0.68-0.75) | <0.001  | 2.22                   | (1.98-2.48) | <0.001  | 0.61                  | (0.58-0.64) | <0.001  |
| <b>Comorbidities</b>                     |                                  |             |         |                        |             |         |                       |             |         |
| <b>Diabetes</b>                          |                                  |             | <0.001  |                        |             | 0.008   |                       |             | <0.001  |
| Type 1                                   | 1.06                             | (0.94-1.19) | 0.32    | 0.67                   | (0.51-0.88) | 0.005   | 1.20                  | (1.07-1.35) | 0.002   |
| Type 2                                   | 0.81                             | (0.76-0.87) | <0.001  | 0.80                   | (0.67-0.95) | 0.009   | 0.85                  | (0.79-0.91) | <0.001  |
| <b>CAD</b>                               | 0.89                             | (0.85-0.93) | <0.001  | 0.70                   | (0.62-0.79) | <0.001  | 0.94                  | (0.90-0.98) | 0.008   |
| <b>PVD</b>                               | 0.85                             | (0.80-0.90) | <0.001  | 0.61                   | (0.52-0.72) | <0.001  | 0.90                  | (0.86-0.95) | <0.001  |
| <b>CVD</b>                               | 0.89                             | (0.84-0.95) | <0.001  | 0.57                   | (0.47-0.70) | <0.001  | 0.95                  | (0.89-1.01) | 0.10    |



|   |      |             |        |      |             |       |      |             |        |
|---|------|-------------|--------|------|-------------|-------|------|-------------|--------|
| <b>Chronic lung disease</b>   | 0.72 | (0.68-0.76) | <0.001 | 0.86 | (0.74-1.01) | 0.06  | 0.73 | (0.69-0.78) | <0.001 |
| <b>Non-skin cancer ever</b>   | 0.75 | (0.70-0.80) | <0.001 | 1.28 | (1.10-1.49) | 0.001 | 0.72 | (0.67-0.77) | <0.001 |
| <b>CENTER-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS</b>   |      |             |        |      |             |       |      |             |        |
| <b>Transplant hospital</b>  | 0.94 | (0.61-1.45) | 0.78   | 1.23 | (0.73-2.06) | 0.44  | 0.91 | (0.59-1.40) | 0.65   |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of incident dialysis patients with a permanent access</b> |      |             | 0.03   |      |             | 0.03  |      |             | 0.05   |
| ≤ 46%   | 0.65 | (0.42-1.00) | 0.05   | 1.12 | (0.65-1.91) | 0.69  | 0.62 | (0.40-0.96) | 0.03   |
| 47-55%  | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |        |
| > 55%   | 1.14 | (0.73-1.77) | 0.56   | 1.96 | (1.15-3.34) | 0.01  | 0.98 | (0.63-1.53) | 0.94   |
| <b>Mean annual facility HD weekly hours</b>   |      |             | 0.06   |      |             | 0.16  |      |             | 0.14   |
| ≤ 12.56   | 0.59 | (0.38-0.92) | 0.02   | 0.80 | (0.46-1.39) | 0.43  | 0.64 | (0.41-0.99) | 0.047  |
| 12.56-13.70   | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |        |
| > 13.70   | 0.93 | (0.62-1.39) | 0.72   | 1.46 | (0.88-2.42) | 0.15  | 0.88 | (0.59-1.33) | 0.55   |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of HD patients on HDF</b>                                 |      |             | 0.08   |      |             | 0.93  |      |             | 0.06   |
| ≤ 2%  |      |             |        |      |             |       |      |             |        |
| 3-14%   | 1.15 | (0.74-1.78) | 0.54   | 0.97 | (0.56-1.66) | 0.90  | 1.19 | (0.77-1.84) | 0.45   |
| > 14%   | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |        |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of patients with target solute clearance</b>              |      |             | 0.36   |      |             | 0.73  |      |             | 0.35   |
| ≤ 59%   | 0.92 | (0.60-1.43) | 0.71   | 0.80 | (0.47-1.38) | 0.43  | 0.94 | (0.61-1.45) | 0.77   |
| 60-70%  | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |        |
| > 70%   | 0.74 | (0.49-1.12) | 0.15   | 0.94 | (0.56-1.59) | 0.83  | 0.74 | (0.48-1.12) | 0.15   |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of patients with target hemoglobin</b>                    |      |             | 0.81   |      |             | 0.99  |      |             | 0.67   |
| ≤ 35%   | 1.03 | (0.65-1.63) | 0.91   | 1.01 | (0.56-1.80) | 0.98  | 1.04 | (0.66-1.66) | 0.86   |
| 36-39%  | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |        |
| > 39%   | 1.16 | (0.73-1.85) | 0.54   | 1.04 | (0.58-1.88) | 0.89  | 1.23 | (0.77-1.96) | 0.39   |
| <b>Center size (mean annual number of incident dialysis patients)</b>               |      |             | 0.08   |      |             | 0.37  |      |             | 0.10   |
| ≤ 39  | 0.62 | (0.41-0.94) | 0.02   | 0.72 | (0.43-1.19) | 0.20  | 0.64 | (0.42-0.96) | 0.03   |
| 40-94   | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |        |
| > 94  | 0.78 | (0.73-1.77) | 0.48   | 1.12 | (0.50-2.52) | 0.78  | 0.80 | (0.40-1.60) | 0.52   |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of prevalent dialysis patients on home-based therapy</b>  |      |             | <0.001 |      |             | 0.004 |      |             | <0.001 |
| ≤ 26%   | 0.42 | (0.28-0.62) | <0.001 | 0.51 | (0.30-0.85) | 0.01  | 0.43 | (0.29-0.64) | <0.001 |
| 27-46%  | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |        |
| > 46%   | 1.79 | (1.07-2.98) | 0.03   | 1.60 | (0.87-2.95) | 0.13  | 1.55 | (0.93-2.58) | 0.09   |

ATSI = Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; BMI = Body Mass Index; CAD = coronary artery disease; CVD = cerebrovascular disease; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; HHD = home hemodialysis; PD = peritoneal dialysis; PVD = peripheral vascular disease; Ref = reference (1.00). All center-level covariates (except transplantation status) are subcategorized into quartiles based on all incident dialysis patients during the study period (1997-2017), with the second and third quartiles merged to become the reference category.

**Table S3.** Baseline characteristics of patients by era (all patients and home-based dialysis patients).

| Characteristics   | ALL PATIENTS        |                      |                | HOME-BASED PATIENTS WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF DIALYSIS INITIATION |                      |                |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|--|----------------------|----------------|
|   | ERA<br>1997-2005    | ERA<br>2006-2017     | <i>P</i> value | ERA<br>1997-2005   | ERA<br>2006-2017     | <i>P</i> value |
| <b>N=</b>   | <b>19353</b>        | <b>35420</b>         |                | <b>9464</b>  | <b>14935</b>         |                |
| <b>Age at first dialysis (years)</b>                      | 61 (48-71)          | 62 (50-72)           | <0.001         | 60 (48-70)   | 60 (49-70)           | 0.97           |
| <b>Male sex</b>   | 11377 (59%)         | 21799 (62%)          | <0.001         | 5331 (56%)   | 9262 (62%)           | <0.001         |
| <b>eGFR* at first dialysis (mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>)</b> | 6.39<br>(4.88-8.53) | 7.75<br>(5.71-10.23) | <0.001         | 6.50<br>(4.99-8.60)  | 7.98<br>(5.98-10.34) | <0.001         |
| <b>Primary kidney disease</b>                             |                     |                      | <0.001         |  |                      | <0.001         |
| Diabetic nephropathy                                      | 5791 (30%)          | 13864 (39%)          |                | 2935 (31%)   | 5390 (36%)           |                |
| Glomerulonephritis  | 5245 (27%)          | 7246 (20%)           |                | 2639 (28%)   | 3634 (24%)           |                |
| Reflux nephropathy  | 678 (4%)            | 4808 (14%)           |                | 344 (4%)   | 430 (3%)             |                |
| Polycystic disease  | 1163 (6%)           | 2003 (6%)            |                | 608 (6%)   | 1021 (7%)            |                |
| Hypertension  | 2617 (14%)          | 775 (2%)             |                | 1230 (13%)   | 1997 (13%)           |                |
| Other   | 2635 (14%)          | 4440 (13%)           |                | 1138 (12%)   | 1567 (10%)           |                |
| Uncertain   | 1224 (6%)           | 1804 (5%)            |                | 570 (6%)   | 759 (5%)             |                |
| Not reported  | 0 (0%)              | 480 (1%)             |                | 0 (0%)   | 137 (1%)             |                |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>  |                     |                      | <0.001         |  |                      | <0.001         |
| Caucasian   | 14287 (74%)         | 23241 (66%)          |                | 6830 (72%)   | 9605 (64%)           |                |
| ATSI  | 1519 (8%)           | 3137 (9%)            |                | 537 (6%)   | 760 (5%)             |                |
| Māori   | 1259 (7%)           | 2233 (6%)            |                | 818 (9%)   | 1171 (8%)            |                |
| Pacific Islander  | 786 (4%)            | 1987 (6%)            |                | 388 (4%)   | 824 (6%)             |                |
| Asian   | 1388 (7%)           | 3257 (9%)            |                | 838 (9%)   | 1889 (13%)           |                |
| Other   | 112 (1%)            | 1057 (3%)            |                | 52 (1%)  | 504 (3%)             |                |
| Not reported  | 2 (0%)              | 508 (1%)             |                | 1 (0%)   | 182 (1%)             |                |
| <b>State at KRT start</b>                                 |                     |                      | 0.001          |  |                      | <0.001         |
| New South Wales   | 4877 (25%)          | 9082 (26%)           |                | 2760 (29%)   | 4368 (29%)           |                |
| Queensland  | 2975 (15%)          | 5637 (16%)           |                | 1356 (14%)   | 2344 (16%)           |                |
| Victoria  | 3810 (20%)          | 6869 (19%)           |                | 1506 (16%)   | 2454 (16%)           |                |
| Western Australia   | 1681 (9%)           | 3240 (9%)            |                | 681 (7%)   | 1095 (7%)            |                |
| Tasmania  | 300 (2%)            | 598 (2%)             |                | 96 (1%)  | 207 (1%)             |                |
| Northern Territory  | 556 (3%)            | 1082 (3%)            |                | 95 (1%)  | 153 (1%)             |                |
| ACT   | 364 (2%)            | 635 (2%)             |                | 189 (2%)   | 142 (1%)             |                |
| South Australia   | 1156 (6%)           | 2165 (6%)            |                | 342 (4%)   | 778 (5%)             |                |
| New Zealand   | 3634 (19%)          | 6112 (17%)           |                | 2439 (26%)   | 3394 (23%)           |                |
| <b>Late referral</b>                                      | 4933 (26%)          | 7011 (20%)           | <0.001         | 2236 (24%)   | 2270 (15%)           | <0.001         |
| <b>Failed transplant before dialysis initiation</b>       | 79 (0%)             | 240 (1%)             | <0.001         | 37 (0%)  | 120 (1%)             | <0.001         |
| <b>Smoking</b>  |                     |                      | 0.02           |  |                      | <0.001         |
| Never   | 8774 (45%)          | 16012 (46%)          |                | 4447 (47%)   | 7006 (47%)           |                |
| Current   | 2713 (14%)          | 4583 (13%)           |                | 1254 (13%)   | 1831 (12%)           |                |
| Former  | 7843 (41%)          | 14247 (41%)          |                | 3759 (40%)   | 5934 (40%)           |                |

|                               |            |             |        |            |            |        |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------------|--------|------------|------------|--------|
| <b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b> |            |             | <0.001 |            |            | <0.001 |
| <18.5                         | 796 (4%)   | 899 (3%)    |        | 360 (4%)   | 352 (2%)   |        |
| 18.5-24.9                     | 7613 (40%) | 10102 (29%) |        | 3805 (40%) | 4562 (31%) |        |
| 25-29.9                       | 6229 (32%) | 10952 (32%) |        | 3197 (34%) | 5025 (34%) |        |
| ≥30                           | 4612 (24%) | 12636 (37%) |        | 2063 (22%) | 4769 (32%) |        |
| <b>Comorbidities</b>          |            |             |        |            |            |        |
| <b>Diabetes</b>               |            |             | <0.001 |            |            | <0.001 |
| Type 1                        | 750 (4%)   | 1519 (4%)   |        | 454 (5%)   | 768 (5%)   |        |
| Type 2                        | 6775 (35%) | 16305 (46%) |        | 3184 (34%) | 6034 (41%) |        |
| <b>CAD</b>                    | 6028 (31%) | 11446 (33%) | 0.001  | 2828 (30%) | 4035 (27%) | <0.001 |
| <b>PVD</b>                    | 3780 (20%) | 6103 (17%)  | <0.001 | 1744 (18%) | 2082 (14%) | <0.001 |
| <b>CVD</b>                    | 2164 (11%) | 3981 (11%)  | 0.67   | 978 (10%)  | 1451 (10%) | 0.15   |
| <b>Chronic lung disease</b>   | 2340 (12%) | 4624 (13%)  | 0.001  | 998 (11%)  | 1496 (10%) | 0.23   |
| <b>Non-skin cancer ever</b>   | 2031 (10%) | 3806 (11%)  | 0.36   | 791 (8%)   | 1257 (8%)  | 0.87   |

\*eGFR calculated using the MDRD4 formula

ACT = Australian Capital Territory; ATSI = Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; BMI = Body Mass Index; CAD = coronary artery disease; CVD = cerebrovascular disease; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; HHD = home hemodialysis; IRSAD = Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage; KRT = kidney replacement therapy; PD = peritoneal dialysis; PVD = peripheral vascular disease; Q = quartile.

Values are expressed as frequency (percentage) for categorical variables, mean ± standard deviation for normally distributed continuous variables, and median (interquartile range) for non-normally distributed continuous variables.

**Table S4.** Mixed-effect logistic regression analysis of uptake of home dialysis within 6 months of dialysis initiation, expressed as odds ratio, stratified by era.

| Characteristics                      | ERA 1997-2005<br>(n=17667) |             |         | ERA 2006-2017<br>(n=33706) |             |         |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------|----------------------------|-------------|---------|
|                                      | OR                         | 95% CI      | P value | OR                         | 95% CI      | P value |
| <b>PATIENT-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS</b> |                            |             |         |                            |             |         |
| <b>Age at first dialysis (years)</b> | 1.00                       | (1.00-1.00) | 0.997   | 0.99                       | (0.98-0.99) | <0.001  |
| <b>Male sex</b>                      | 0.77                       | (0.72-0.82) | <0.001  | 1.00                       | (0.95-1.05) | 0.90    |
| <b>eGFR at first dialysis</b>        | 1.02                       | (1.01-1.03) | <0.001  | 1.01                       | (1.01-1.02) | <0.001  |
| <b>Primary kidney disease</b>        |                            |             |         |                            |             |         |
| Diabetic nephropathy                 | Ref                        |             |         | Ref                        |             |         |
| Glomerulonephritis                   | 0.85                       | (0.74-0.97) | 0.02    | 1.12                       | (1.02-1.23) | 0.02    |
| Reflux nephropathy                   | 0.81                       | (0.65-1.01) | 0.07    | 1.26                       | (1.05-1.51) | 0.01    |
| Polycystic disease                   | 0.85                       | (0.71-1.03) | 0.09    | 1.05                       | (0.92-1.19) | 0.51    |
| Hypertension                         | 0.80                       | (0.69-0.92) | 0.003   | 1.06                       | (0.96-1.17) | 0.25    |
| Other                                | 0.69                       | (0.59-0.81) | <0.001  | 0.75                       | (0.67-0.83) | <0.001  |
| Uncertain                            | 0.89                       | (0.75-1.06) | 0.19    | 1.11                       | (0.97-1.26) | 0.12    |
| Not reported                         | ----                       | -----       | -----   | 0.57                       | (0.40-0.81) | 0.002   |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>                     |                            |             |         |                            |             |         |
| Caucasian                            | Ref                        |             |         | Ref                        |             |         |
| ATSI                                 | 0.80                       | (0.68-0.94) | 0.007   | 0.52                       | (0.47-0.59) | <0.001  |
| Māori                                | 0.91                       | (0.76-1.08) | 0.29    | 0.84                       | (0.74-0.95) | 0.006   |
| Pacific Islander                     | 0.70                       | (0.59-0.84) | <0.001  | 0.63                       | (0.56-0.70) | <0.001  |
| Asian                                | 1.29                       | (1.13-1.47) | <0.001  | 1.58                       | (1.44-1.72) | <0.001  |
| Other                                | 0.82                       | (0.54-1.24) | 0.35    | 0.98                       | (0.85-1.12) | 0.73    |
| Not reported                         | ----                       | -----       | -----   | 0.90                       | (0.68-1.19) | 0.46    |
| <b>Late referral</b>                 | 0.82                       | (0.76-0.89) | <0.001  | 0.55                       | (0.52-0.59) | <0.001  |
| <b>Smoking</b>                       |                            |             |         |                            |             |         |
| Never                                | Ref                        |             |         | Ref                        |             |         |
| Former                               | 0.99                       | (0.92-1.06) | 0.73    | 1.04                       | (0.98-1.09) | 0.17    |
| Current                              | 0.89                       | (0.80-0.99) | 0.03    | 0.87                       | (0.80-0.94) | <0.001  |
| <b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>        |                            |             |         |                            |             |         |
| <18.5                                | 0.83                       | (0.71-0.99) | 0.04    | 0.72                       | (0.62-0.84) | <0.001  |
| 18.5-24.9                            | Ref                        |             |         | Ref                        |             |         |
| 25-29.9                              | 1.03                       | (0.95-1.11) | 0.51    | 1.10                       | (1.03-1.17) | 0.003   |
| ≥30                                  | 0.68                       | (0.62-0.74) | <0.001  | 0.73                       | (0.69-0.78) | <0.001  |
| <b>Comorbidities</b>                 |                            |             |         |                            |             |         |
| <b>Diabetes</b>                      |                            |             |         |                            |             |         |
| Type 1                               | 1.16                       | (0.94-1.44) | 0.17    | 1.00                       | (0.87-1.16) | 0.96    |
| Type 2                               | 0.83                       | (0.74-0.93) | 0.002   | 0.80                       | (0.73-0.86) | <0.001  |
| <b>CAD</b>                           | 1.01                       | (0.94-1.10) | 0.71    | 0.83                       | (0.79-0.88) | <0.001  |
| <b>PVD</b>                           | 0.87                       | (0.80-0.96) | 0.004   | 0.82                       | (0.77-0.88) | <0.001  |
| <b>CVD</b>                           | 0.86                       | (0.77-0.96) | 0.005   | 0.90                       | (0.83-0.97) | 0.005   |
| <b>Chronic lung disease</b>          | 0.78                       | (0.70-0.86) | <0.001  | 0.69                       | (0.64-0.74) | <0.001  |
| <b>Non-skin cancer ever</b>          | 0.71                       | (0.64-0.79) | <0.001  | 0.76                       | (0.70-0.83) | <0.001  |

| <b>CENTER-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS</b>   |      |             |       |      |             |       |
|---|------|-------------|-------|------|-------------|-------|
| <b>Transplant hospital</b>  | 0.80 | (0.43-1.49) | 0.49  | 0.96 | (0.56-1.65) | 0.90  |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of incident dialysis patients with a permanent access</b> |      |             |       |      |             |       |
| ≤ 46%   | 0.57 | (0.31-1.07) | 0.08  | 0.58 | (0.34-0.98) | 0.04  |
| 47-55%  | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |       |
| > 55%   | 1.20 | (0.63-2.28) | 0.58  | 1.19 | (0.70-2.03) | 0.52  |
| <b>Mean annual facility HD weekly hours</b>   |      |             |       |      |             |       |
| ≤ 12.56   | 0.34 | (0.17-0.65) | 0.001 | 0.40 | (0.24-0.67) | 0.000 |
| 12.56-13.70   | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |       |
| > 13.70   | 1.02 | (0.55-1.91) | 0.94  | 0.95 | (0.58-1.56) | 0.85  |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of HD patients on HDF</b>                                 |      |             |       |      |             |       |
| ≤ 2%  | 1.30 | (0.66-2.55) | 0.45  | 1.53 | (0.92-2.56) | 0.10  |
| 3-14%   | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |       |
| > 14%   | 0.70 | (0.38-1.32) | 0.27  | 0.70 | (0.42-1.16) | 0.16  |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of patients with target solute clearance</b>              |      |             |       |      |             |       |
| ≤ 59%   | 1.22 | (0.64-2.30) | 0.54  | 0.95 | (0.56-1.61) | 0.86  |
| 60-70%  | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |       |
| > 70%   | 0.59 | (0.31-1.12) | 0.11  | 0.61 | (0.37-1.01) | 0.05  |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of patients with target hemoglobin</b>                    |      |             |       |      |             |       |
| ≤ 35%   | 0.61 | (0.31-1.17) | 0.14  | 0.99 | (0.56-1.75) | 0.98  |
| 36-39%  | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |       |
| > 39%   | 0.53 | (0.27-1.04) | 0.06  | 0.78 | (0.46-1.33) | 0.37  |
| <b>Center size (mean annual number of incident dialysis patients)</b>               |      |             |       |      |             |       |
| ≤ 39  | 0.43 | (0.24-0.77) | 0.005 | 0.53 | (0.32-0.86) | 0.01  |
| 40-94   | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |       |
| > 94  | 0.95 | (0.37-2.47) | 0.92  | 0.83 | (0.35-1.92) | 0.66  |

ATSI = Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; BMI = Body Mass Index; CAD = coronary artery disease; CVD = cerebrovascular disease; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; HHD = home hemodialysis; PD = peritoneal dialysis; PVD = peripheral vascular disease; Ref = reference (1.00).

All center-level covariates (except transplantation status) are subcategorized into quartiles based on all incident dialysis patients during the study period (1997-2017), with the second and third quartiles merged to become the reference category.

**Table S5.** Mixed-effect logistic regression analysis of uptake of home dialysis within 6 months of dialysis initiation, expressed as odds ratio, accounting for state in 2 different models – adjusted for state as fixed effect [A] / fitting state as random intercept [B].

| Characteristics                      | MODEL A<br>INCLUDING STATE<br>AS FIXED EFFECT |             |         | MODEL B<br>INCLUDING STATE<br>AS RANDOM INTERCEPT |             |         |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|---------|---|-------------|---------|
|                                      | OR  | 95% CI      | P value | OR  | 95% CI      | P value |
| <b>Era</b>                           |   |             |         |   |             |         |
| 1997-2005                            | Ref   |             |         | Ref   |             |         |
| 2006-2017                            | 0.79  | (0.75-0.82) | <0.001  | 0.79  | (0.75-0.82) | <0.001  |
| <b>PATIENT-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS</b> |   |             |         |   |             |         |
| <b>Age at first dialysis (years)</b> | 0.99  | (0.99-0.99) | <0.001  | 0.99  | (0.99-0.99) | <0.001  |
| <b>Male sex</b>                      | 0.91  | (0.87-0.94) | <0.001  | 0.91  | (0.87-0.94) | <0.001  |
| <b>eGFR at first dialysis</b>        | 1.02  | (1.01-1.02) | <0.001  | 1.02  | (1.01-1.02) | <0.001  |
| <b>Primary kidney disease</b>        |   |             | <0.001  |   |             | <0.001  |
| Diabetic nephropathy                 | Ref   |             |         | Ref   |             |         |
| Glomerulonephritis                   | 1.01  | (0.94-1.10) | 0.73    | 1.01  | (0.94-1.10) | 0.73    |
| Reflux nephropathy                   | 1.04  | (0.91-1.19) | 0.56    | 1.04  | (0.91-1.19) | 0.56    |
| Polycystic disease                   | 1.00  | (0.90-1.11) | 0.94    | 1.00  | (0.90-1.11) | 0.94    |
| Hypertension                         | 0.98  | (0.91-1.07) | 0.66    | 0.98  | (0.90-1.07) | 0.66    |
| Other                                | 0.75  | (0.69-0.81) | <0.001  | 0.75  | (0.68-0.81) | <0.001  |
| Uncertain                            | 1.06  | (0.96-1.18) | 0.23    | 1.06  | (0.96-1.18) | 0.23    |
| Not reported                         | 0.54  | (0.39-0.76) | <0.001  | 0.54  | (0.39-0.76) | <0.001  |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>                     |   |             | <0.001  |   |             | <0.001  |
| Caucasian                            | Ref   |             |         | Ref   |             |         |
| ATSI                                 | 0.62  | (0.57-0.69) | <0.001  | 0.62  | (0.57-0.68) | <0.001  |
| Māori                                | 0.87  | (0.79-0.96) | 0.006   | 0.87  | (0.79-0.96) | 0.008   |
| Pacific Islander                     | 0.65  | (0.59-0.72) | <0.001  | 0.65  | (0.59-0.72) | <0.001  |
| Asian                                | 1.48  | (1.38-1.59) | <0.001  | 1.48  | (1.38-1.59) | <0.001  |
| Other                                | 0.95  | (0.83-1.08) | 0.40    | 0.95  | (0.83-1.08) | 0.40    |
| Not reported                         | 0.95  | (0.72-1.26) | 0.73    | 0.95  | (0.72-1.26) | 0.72    |
| <b>Late referral</b>                 | 0.66  | (0.63-0.69) | <0.001  | 0.66  | (0.63-0.69) | <0.001  |
| <b>Smoking</b>                       |   |             | <0.001  |   |             | <0.001  |
| Never                                | Ref   |             |         | Ref   |             |         |
| Former                               | 1.02  | (0.98-1.06) | 0.38    | 1.02  | (0.98-1.06) | 0.38    |
| Current                              | 0.87  | (0.82-0.93) | <0.001  | 0.87  | (0.82-0.93) | <0.001  |
| <b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>        |   |             | <0.001  |   |             | <0.001  |
| <18.5                                | 0.78  | (0.70-0.87) | <0.001  | 0.78  | (0.70-0.87) | <0.001  |
| 18.5-24.9                            | Ref   |             |         | Ref   |             |         |
| 25-29.9                              | 1.07  | (1.02-1.12) | 0.005   | 1.07  | (1.02-1.12) | 0.005   |
| ≥30                                  | 0.71  | (0.68-0.75) | <0.001  | 0.72  | (0.68-0.75) | <0.001  |
| <b>Comorbidities</b>                 |   |             |         |   |             |         |
| <b>Diabetes</b>                      |   |             | <0.001  |   |             | <0.001  |
| Type 1                               | 1.06  | (0.94-1.19) | 0.33    | 1.06  | (0.94-1.19) | 0.33    |
| Type 2                               | 0.81  | (0.76-0.87) | <0.001  | 0.81  | (0.76-0.87) | <0.001  |
| <b>CAD</b>                           | 0.89  | (0.85-0.93) | <0.001  | 0.89  | (0.85-0.93) | <0.001  |
| <b>PVD</b>                           | 0.85  | (0.80-0.90) | <0.001  | 0.85  | (0.80-0.90) | <0.001  |
| <b>CVD</b>                           | 0.89  | (0.84-0.95) | <0.001  | 0.89  | (0.84-0.95) | <0.001  |
| <b>Chronic lung disease</b>          | 0.72  | (0.68-0.76) | <0.001  | 0.72  | (0.68-0.76) | <0.001  |

|   |      |             |        |      |             |        |
|---|------|-------------|--------|------|-------------|--------|
| <b>Non-skin cancer ever</b>   | 0.75 | (0.70-0.80) | <0.001 | 0.75 | (0.70-0.80) | <0.001 |
| <b>CENTER-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS</b>   |      |             |        |      |             |        |
| <b>Transplant hospital</b>  | 0.64 | (0.38-1.09) | 0.10   | 0.71 | (0.42-1.20) | 0.20   |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of incident dialysis patients with a permanent access</b> |      |             | 0.06   |      |             | 0.03   |
| ≤ 46%   | 0.64 | (0.39-1.05) | 0.08   | 0.58 | (0.35-0.96) | 0.04   |
| 47-55%  | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |        |
| > 55%   | 1.13 | (0.70-1.84) | 0.61   | 1.10 | (0.66-1.82) | 0.71   |
| <b>Mean annual facility HD weekly hours</b>   |      |             | 0.25   |      |             | 0.04   |
| ≤ 12.56   | 0.63 | (0.33-1.23) | 0.18   | 0.48 | (0.27-0.86) | 0.01   |
| 12.56-13.70   | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |        |
| > 13.70   | 0.76 | (0.44-1.29) | 0.31   | 0.79 | (0.46-1.33) | 0.37   |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of HD patients on HDF</b>                                 |      |             | 0.01   |      |             | 0.02   |
| ≤ 2%  | 1.17 | (0.71-1.94) | 0.54   | 1.28 | (0.76-2.16) | 0.35   |
| 3-14%   | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |        |
| > 14%   | 0.52 | (0.32-0.85) | 0.009  | 0.59 | (0.36-0.96) | 0.04   |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of patients with target solute clearance</b>              |      |             | 0.04   |      |             | 0.07   |
| ≤ 59%   | 0.69 | (0.39-1.24) | 0.22   | 0.82 | (0.46-1.44) | 0.48   |
| 60-70%  | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |        |
| > 70%   | 0.57 | (0.37-0.89) | 0.01   | 0.57 | (0.36-0.92) | 0.02   |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of patients with target hemoglobin</b>                    |      |             | 0.89   |      |             | 0.86   |
| ≤ 35%   | 0.90 | (0.54-1.49) | 0.67   | 0.90 | (0.53-1.53) | 0.70   |
| 36-39%  | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |        |
| > 39%   | 0.91 | (0.55-1.49) | 0.70   | 0.87 | (0.52-1.46) | 0.59   |
| <b>Center size (mean annual number of incident dialysis patients)</b>               |      |             | 0.001  |      |             | 0.006  |
| ≤ 39  | 0.42 | (0.26-0.68) | <0.001 | 0.47 | (0.29-0.76) | 0.002  |
| 40-94   | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |        |
| > 94  | 0.90 | (0.41-1.98) | 0.79   | 0.96 | (0.42-2.16) | 0.92   |
| <b>State at KRT start</b>   |      |             | 0.001  |      |             |        |
| New South Wales   | Ref  |             |        |      |             |        |
| Queensland  | 0.40 | (0.22-0.75) | 0.004  |      |             |        |
| Victoria  | 0.46 | (0.21-1.00) | 0.05   |      |             |        |
| Western Australia   | 0.59 | (0.18-1.94) | 0.38   |      |             |        |
| Tasmania  | 0.97 | (0.30-3.19) | 0.96   |      |             |        |
| Northern Territory  | 0.30 | (0.10-0.95) | 0.04   |      |             |        |
| Australian Capital Territory  | 0.36 | (0.07-1.96) | 0.24   |      |             |        |
| South Australia   | 0.88 | (0.24-3.20) | 0.85   |      |             |        |
| New Zealand   | 1.94 | (0.95-3.98) | 0.07   |      |             |        |

ATSI = Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; BMI = Body Mass Index; CAD = coronary artery disease; CVD = cerebrovascular disease; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; HHD = home hemodialysis; KRT = kidney replacement therapy; PD = peritoneal dialysis; PVD = peripheral vascular disease; Ref = reference (1.00).



All center-level covariates (except transplantation status) are subcategorized into quartiles based on all incident dialysis patients during the study period (1997-2017), with the second and third quartiles merged to become the reference category.

**Table S6.** Mixed-effect logistic regression analysis of uptake of home dialysis within 6 months of dialysis initiation, expressed as odds ratio, by country and alternative model including Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage & Disadvantage score and remoteness area in Australian cohort.

| Characteristics                      | AUSTRALIA  |             |         |                   |             |         | NEW ZEALAND* |             |         |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------|---------|-------------------|-------------|---------|--------------|-------------|---------|
|                                      | MAIN MODEL |             |         | ALTERNATIVE MODEL |             |         | OR           | 95% CI      | P value |
|                                      | OR         | 95% CI      | P value | OR                | 95% CI      | P value |              |             |         |
| <b>Era</b>                           |            |             |         |                   |             |         |              |             |         |
| 1997-2005                            | Ref        |             |         | Ref               |             |         | Ref          |             |         |
| 2006-2017                            | 0.82       | (0.78-0.86) | <0.001  | 0.82              | (0.78-0.85) | <0.001  | 0.66         | (0.60-0.73) | <0.001  |
| <b>PATIENT-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS</b> |            |             |         |                   |             |         |              |             |         |
| <b>Age at first dialysis (years)</b> | 0.99       | (0.99-0.99) | <0.001  | 0.99              | (0.99-0.99) | <0.001  | 1.00         | (1.00-1.00) | 0.87    |
| <b>Male sex</b>                      | 0.93       | (0.89-0.98) | 0.003   | 0.93              | (0.89-0.98) | 0.003   | 0.79         | (0.72-0.87) | <0.001  |
| <b>eGFR at first dialysis</b>        | 1.01       | (1.01-1.02) | <0.001  | 1.01              | (1.01-1.02) | <0.001  | 1.03         | (1.02-1.05) | <0.001  |
| <b>Primary kidney disease</b>        |            |             | <0.001  |                   |             | <0.001  |              |             | 0.002   |
| Diabetic nephropathy                 | Ref        |             |         | Ref               |             |         | Ref          |             |         |
| Glomerulonephritis                   | 1.06       | (0.97-1.15) | 0.21    | 1.06              | (0.97-1.15) | 0.18    | 0.82         | (0.67-1.01) | 0.07    |
| Reflux nephropathy                   | 1.03       | (0.89-1.19) | 0.68    | 1.05              | (0.91-1.22) | 0.50    | 1.11         | (0.74-1.65) | 0.61    |
| Polycystic disease                   | 1.03       | (0.92-1.16) | 0.56    | 1.04              | (0.93-1.16) | 0.50    | 0.76         | (0.56-1.02) | 0.06    |
| Hypertension                         | 1.01       | (0.92-1.10) | 0.87    | 1.01              | (0.93-1.10) | 0.80    | 0.84         | (0.67-1.06) | 0.14    |
| Other                                | 0.78       | (0.71-0.85) | <0.001  | 0.78              | (0.71-0.86) | <0.001  | 0.61         | (0.48-0.78) | <0.001  |
| Uncertain                            | 1.11       | (1.00-1.24) | 0.06    | 1.12              | (1.00-1.25) | 0.05    | 0.83         | (0.62-1.10) | 0.20    |
| Not reported                         | 0.54       | (0.38-0.78) | 0.001   | 0.55              | (0.38-0.79) | 0.001   | 0.51         | (0.16-1.66) | 0.27    |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>                     |            |             | <0.001  |                   |             | <0.001  |              |             | <0.001  |
| Caucasian                            | Ref        |             |         | Ref               |             |         | Ref          |             |         |
| ATSI                                 | 0.62       | (0.56-0.68) | <0.001  | 0.46              | (0.41-0.51) | <0.001  | -----        | -----       | -----   |
| Māori                                | 1.04       | (0.83-1.31) | 0.73    | 1.04              | (0.83-1.31) | 0.72    | 0.84         | (0.74-0.96) | 0.01    |
| Pacific Islander                     | 0.71       | (0.62-0.82) | <0.001  | 0.75              | (0.65-0.86) | <0.001  | 0.65         | (0.56-0.76) | <0.001  |
| Asian                                | 1.51       | (1.40-1.63) | <0.001  | 1.65              | (1.53-1.79) | <0.001  | 1.28         | (1.06-1.56) | 0.01    |
| Other                                | 0.90       | (0.78-1.02) | 0.12    | 0.97              | (0.85-1.11) | 0.68    | 1.68         | (1.04-2.74) | 0.04    |
| Not reported                         | 0.93       | (0.70-1.24) | 0.63    | 0.97              | (0.73-1.29) | 0.83    | 1.22         | (0.32-4.68) | 0.78    |
| <b>Late referral</b>                 | 0.66       | (0.63-0.70) | <0.001  | 0.65              | (0.62-0.69) | <0.001  | 0.65         | (0.58-0.73) | <0.001  |
| <b>Smoking</b>                       |            |             | <0.001  |                   |             | <0.001  |              |             | 0.04    |
| Never                                | Ref        |             |         | Ref               |             |         | Ref          |             |         |
| Former                               | 1.00       | (0.95-1.05) | 0.95    | 0.99              | (0.94-1.04) | 0.69    | 1.11         | (1.00-1.23) | 0.05    |
| Current                              | 0.86       | (0.80-0.92) | <0.001  | 0.85              | (0.79-0.91) | <0.001  | 0.95         | (0.83-1.09) | 0.49    |
| <b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>        |            |             | <0.001  |                   |             | <0.001  |              |             | <0.001  |
| <18.5                                | 0.78       | (0.71-0.90) | <0.001  | 0.80              | (0.71-0.91) | <0.001  | 0.67         | (0.47-0.97) | 0.04    |
| 18.5-24.9                            | Ref        |             |         | Ref               |             |         | Ref          |             |         |
| 25-29.9                              | 1.06       | (1.01-1.12) | 0.03    | 1.06              | (1.01-1.12) | 0.02    | 1.12         | (0.98-1.27) | 0.09    |
| ≥30                                  | 0.74       | (0.70-0.78) | <0.001  | 0.74              | (0.69-0.78) | <0.001  | 0.63         | (0.56-0.72) | <0.001  |
| <b>Comorbidities</b>                 |            |             | <0.001  |                   |             | <0.001  |              |             | <0.001  |
| <b>Diabetes</b>                      |            |             | <0.001  |                   |             | <0.001  |              |             | <0.001  |
| Type 1                               | 1.08       | (0.95-1.22) | 0.26    | 1.09              | (0.96-1.24) | 0.18    | 0.96         | (0.69-1.33) | 0.79    |
| Type 2                               | 0.83       | (0.77-0.89) | <0.001  | 0.83              | (0.77-0.89) | <0.001  | 0.71         | (0.58-0.86) | <0.001  |
| <b>CAD</b>                           | 0.90       | (0.86-0.95) | <0.001  | 0.91              | (0.86-0.96) | <0.001  | 0.88         | (0.78-0.98) | 0.02    |

|   |      |             |        |      |             |        |       |             |        |
|---|------|-------------|--------|------|-------------|--------|-------|-------------|--------|
| <b>PVD</b>  | 0.83 | (0.78-0.88) | <0.001 | 0.83 | (0.78-0.88) | <0.001 | 0.96  | (0.84-1.10) | 0.56   |
| <b>CVD</b>  | 0.87 | (0.81-0.93) | <0.001 | 0.87 | (0.81-0.93) | <0.001 | 0.99  | (0.85-1.14) | 0.86   |
| <b>Chronic lung disease</b>   | 0.73 | (0.68-0.78) | <0.001 | 0.73 | (0.68-0.78) | <0.001 | 0.69  | (0.61-0.79) | <0.001 |
| <b>Non-skin cancer ever</b>   | 0.75 | (0.70-0.80) | <0.001 | 0.74 | (0.69-0.80) | <0.001 | 0.74  | (0.63-0.87) | <0.001 |
| <b>IRSAD score</b>  |      |             |        |      |             |        |       |             | 0.52   |
| Q1 (635-933)  |      |             |        | 1.00 | (0.94-1.05) |        |       |             | 0.93   |
| Q2 + Q3 (934-1039)  |      |             |        | Ref  |             |        |       |             |        |
| Q4 (1040-1181)  |      |             |        | 0.97 | (0.91-1.03) |        |       |             | 0.26   |
| <b>Remoteness area</b>  |      |             |        |      |             |        |       |             | <0.001 |
| Major cities  |      |             |        | Ref  |             |        |       |             |        |
| Regional  |      |             |        | 1.56 | (1.46-1.66) |        |       |             | <0.001 |
| Remote  |      |             |        | 2.99 | (2.60-3.44) |        |       |             | <0.001 |
| <b>CENTER-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS</b>   |      |             |        |      |             |        |       |             |        |
| <b>Transplant hospital</b>  | 0.84 | (0.48-1.48) | 0.55   | 0.96 | (0.55-1.67) | 0.88   | 1.09  | (0.58-2.05) | 0.80   |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of incident dialysis patients with a permanent access</b> |      |             | 0.18   |      |             | 0.11   |       |             | 0.14   |
| ≤ 46% / 45%   | 0.55 | (0.34-1.04) | 0.07   | 0.57 | (0.33-0.99) | 0.047  | 0.73  | (0.29-1.86) | 0.51   |
| 47-55% / 46-54%   | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |        | Ref   |             |        |
| > 55% / 54%   | 1.10 | (0.43-1.54) | 0.53   | 0.87 | (0.46-1.62) | 0.66   | 1.70  | (0.71-4.07) | 0.24   |
| <b>Mean annual facility HD weekly hours</b>   |      |             | 0.01   |      |             | 0.01   |       |             | 0.18   |
| ≤ 12.43 / 13.17   | 0.39 | (0.24-0.79) | 0.006  | 0.46 | (0.26-0.82) | 0.009  | 0.50  | (0.18-1.38) | 0.18   |
| 12.43-13.65/13.17-14.17   | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |        | Ref   |             |        |
| > 13.65 / 14.17   | 1.02 | (0.64-2.08) | 0.63   | 1.23 | (0.69-2.19) | 0.48   | ----- | -----       | -----  |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of HD patients on HDF</b>                                 |      |             | 0.35   |      |             | 0.42   |       |             | <0.001 |
| ≤ 3% / 0.05%  | 1.50 | (0.60-2.08) | 0.72   | 1.02 | (0.55-1.87) | 0.96   | 3.28  | (1.36-7.93) | 0.008  |
| 4-12% / 0.06-19%  | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |        | Ref   |             |        |
| > 12% / 19%   | 0.67 | (0.42-1.29) | 0.28   | 0.72 | (0.41-1.26) | 0.25   | 0.75  | (0.30-1.87) | 0.54   |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of patients with target solute clearance</b>              |      |             | 0.35   |      |             | 0.28   |       |             | 0.38   |
| ≤ 64% / 37%   | 1.00 | (0.52-1.64) | 0.78   | 0.92 | (0.52-1.62) | 0.78   | 0.70  | (0.32-1.54) | 0.38   |
| 65-71% / 38-59%   | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |        | Ref   |             |        |
| > 71% / 59%   | 0.60 | (0.36-1.17) | 0.15   | 0.62 | (0.35-1.12) | 0.11   | ----- | -----       | -----  |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of patients with target hemoglobin</b>                    |      |             | 0.88   |      |             | 0.91   |       |             | -----  |
| ≤ 35% / 34%   | 0.85 | (0.48-1.74) | 0.78   | 0.89 | (0.47-1.69) | 0.72   | ----- | -----       | -----  |
| 36-39% / 35-39  | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |        | Ref   |             |        |
| > 40% / 39%   | 0.73 | (0.48-1.55) | 0.61   | 0.89 | (0.50-1.59) | 0.69   | ----- | -----       | -----  |
| <b>Center size (mean annual number of incident dialysis patients)</b>               |      |             | 0.01   |      |             | 0.004  |       |             | 0.07   |
| ≤ 39 / 35   | 0.47 | (0.28-0.82) | 0.007  | 0.44 | (0.26-0.74) | 0.002  | 0.47  | (0.20-1.12) | 0.09   |
| 40-101 / 36-87  | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |        | Ref   |             |        |
| > 101 / 87  | 0.89 | (0.49-3.25) | 0.63   | 1.26 | (0.50-3.20) | 0.62   | 0.76  | (0.12-4.79) | 0.77   |

ATSI = Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; BMI = Body Mass Index; CAD = coronary artery disease; CVD = cerebrovascular disease; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; HHD = home hemodialysis; IRSAD = Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage & Disadvantage; PD = peritoneal dialysis; PVD = peripheral vascular disease; Q = quartile; Ref = reference (1.00).

All center-level covariates (except transplantation status) are subcategorized into quartiles based on all incident dialysis patients during the study period (1997-2017) in each country, with the second and third quartiles merged to become the reference category. Quartiles are defined for each country separately (Australia / New Zealand). \*In the New Zealand cohort, some variables were omitted because of collinearity.

**Table S7.** Mixed-effect logistic regression analysis of uptake of home dialysis within 12 months of dialysis initiation, expressed as odds ratio.

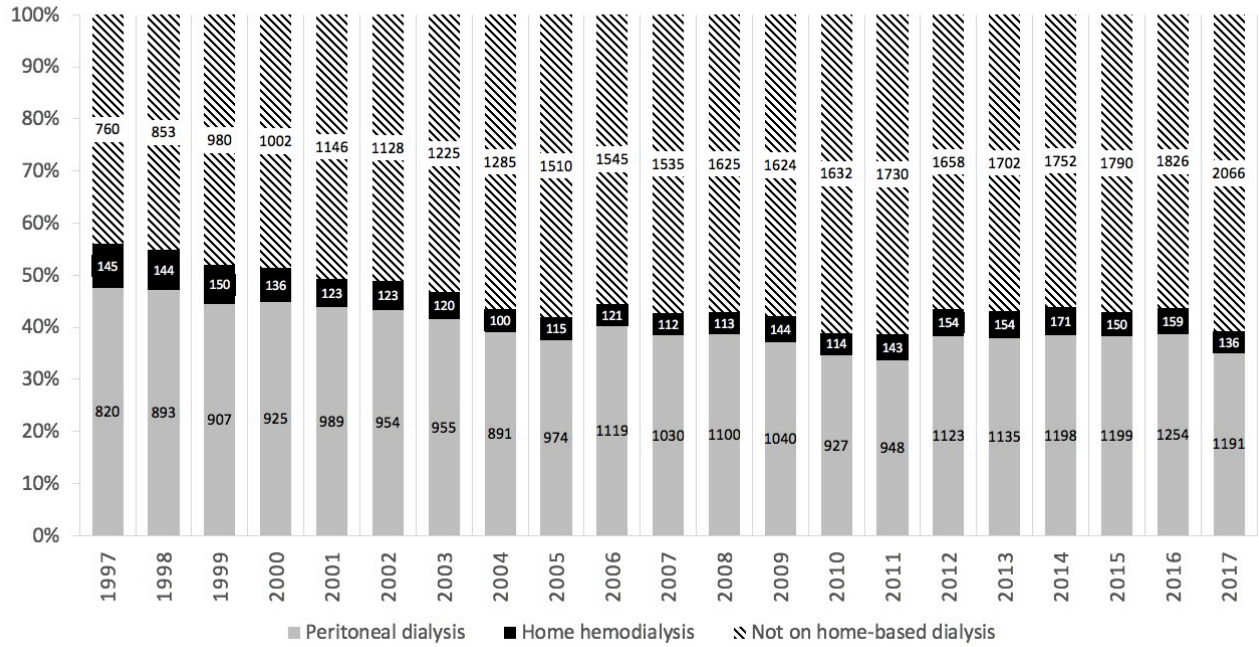
| Characteristics                          | HOME DIALYSIS<br>WITHIN 12 MONTHS |             |         | HHD<br>WITHIN 12 MONTHS |             |         | PD<br>WITHIN 12 MONTHS |             |         |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------------------------|-------------|---------|------------------------|-------------|---------|
|  | OR                                | 95% CI      | P value | OR                      | 95% CI      | P value | OR                     | 95% CI      | P value |
| <b>Era</b>                               |                                   |             |         |                         |             |         |                        |             |         |
| 1997-2005                                | Ref                               |             |         | Ref                     |             |         | Ref                    |             |         |
| 2006-2017                                | 0.77                              | (0.74-0.80) | <0.001  | 0.81                    | (0.75-0.88) | <0.001  | 0.83                   | (0.80-0.86) | <0.001  |
| <b>PATIENT-LEVEL<br/>CHARACTERISTICS</b> |                                   |             |         |                         |             |         |                        |             |         |
| <b>Age at first dialysis<br/>(years)</b> | 0.99                              | (0.99-0.99) | <0.001  | 0.96                    | (0.96-0.96) | <0.001  | 1.00                   | (1.00-1.00) | 0.99    |
| <b>Male sex</b>                          | 0.94                              | (0.90-0.98) | 0.004   | 2.24                    | (2.06-2.44) | <0.001  | 0.77                   | (0.74-0.80) | <0.001  |
| <b>eGFR at first dialysis</b>            | 1.02                              | (1.01-1.02) | <0.001  | 1.00                    | (1.00-1.00) | 0.47    | 1.01                   | (1.01-1.02) | <0.001  |
| <b>Primary kidney disease</b>            |                                   |             | <0.001  |                         |             | <0.001  |                        |             | <0.001  |
| Diabetic nephropathy                     | Ref                               |             |         | Ref                     |             |         | Ref                    |             |         |
| Glomerulonephritis                       | 1.04                              | (0.96-1.12) | 0.31    | 1.25                    | (1.06-1.47) | 0.009   | 0.95                   | (0.88-1.03) | 0.23    |
| Reflux nephropathy                       | 1.03                              | (0.90-1.18) | 0.69    | 1.17                    | (0.92-1.48) | 0.21    | 0.95                   | (0.83-1.08) | 0.42    |
| Polycystic disease                       | 1.02                              | (0.91-1.13) | 0.77    | 2.60                    | (2.15-3.15) | <0.001  | 0.69                   | (0.62-0.77) | <0.001  |
| Hypertension                             | 0.99                              | (0.91-1.07) | 0.77    | 0.94                    | (0.78-1.14) | 0.53    | 0.97                   | (0.89-1.05) | 0.42    |
| Other                                    | 0.76                              | (0.70-0.83) | <0.001  | 1.06                    | (0.88-1.27) | 0.56    | 0.75                   | (0.69-0.82) | <0.001  |
| Uncertain                                | 1.06                              | (0.96-1.17) | 0.26    | 0.94                    | (0.75-1.19) | 0.63    | 1.04                   | (0.94-1.15) | 0.42    |
| Not reported                             | 0.52                              | (0.37-0.73) | <0.001  | 0.87                    | (0.42-1.79) | 0.71    | 0.51                   | (0.36-0.72) | <0.001  |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>                         |                                   |             | <0.001  |                         |             | <0.001  |                        |             | <0.001  |
| Caucasian                                | Ref                               |             |         | Ref                     |             |         | Ref                    |             |         |
| ATSI                                     | 0.61                              | (0.55-0.66) | <0.001  | 0.53                    | (0.42-0.66) | <0.001  | 0.67                   | (0.61-0.74) | <0.001  |
| Māori                                    | 0.88                              | (0.79-0.97) | 0.01    | 0.90                    | (0.77-1.06) | 0.22    | 0.96                   | (0.87-1.06) | 0.39    |
| Pacific Islander                         | 0.66                              | (0.60-0.73) | <0.001  | 0.79                    | (0.66-0.93) | 0.006   | 0.73                   | (0.67-0.81) | <0.001  |
| Asian                                    | 1.49                              | (1.38-1.60) | <0.001  | 0.71                    | (0.61-0.82) | <0.001  | 1.60                   | (1.49-1.71) | <0.001  |
| Other                                    | 0.94                              | (0.82-1.07) | 0.36    | 0.74                    | (0.57-0.96) | 0.02    | 1.03                   | (0.91-1.18) | 0.62    |
| Not reported                             | 0.90                              | (0.68-1.19) | 0.47    | 0.48                    | (0.26-0.88) | 0.02    | 1.11                   | (0.84-1.46) | 0.46    |
| <b>Late referral</b>                     | 0.69                              | (0.66-0.73) | <0.001  | 0.49                    | (0.44-0.54) | <0.001  | 0.81                   | (0.77-0.85) | <0.001  |
| <b>Smoking</b>                           |                                   |             | <0.001  |                         |             | <0.001  |                        |             | 0.07    |
| Never                                    | Ref                               |             |         | Ref                     |             |         | Ref                    |             |         |
| Former                                   | 1.03                              | (0.98-1.07) | 0.26    | 1.14                    | (1.05-1.24) | 0.002   | 1.01                   | (0.97-1.06) | 0.58    |
| Current                                  | 0.89                              | (0.83-0.94) | <0.001  | 0.91                    | (0.81-1.02) | 0.11    | 0.94                   | (0.89-1.00) | 0.06    |
| <b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>            |                                   |             | <0.001  |                         |             | <0.001  |                        |             | <0.001  |
| <18.5                                    | 0.78                              | (0.69-0.87) | <0.001  | 0.61                    | (0.46-0.82) | 0.001   | 0.85                   | (0.76-0.95) | 0.005   |
| 18.5-24.9                                | Ref                               |             |         | Ref                     |             |         | Ref                    |             |         |
| 25-29.9                                  | 1.08                              | (1.03-1.13) | 0.002   | 1.28                    | (1.16-1.41) | <0.001  | 1.03                   | (0.98-1.08) | 0.29    |
| ≥30                                      | 0.75                              | (0.71-0.79) | <0.001  | 2.28                    | (2.07-2.52) | <0.001  | 0.62                   | (0.58-0.65) | <0.001  |
| <b>Comorbidities</b>                     |                                   |             |         |                         |             |         |                        |             |         |
| <b>Diabetes</b>                          |                                   |             | <0.001  |                         |             | 0.001   |                        |             | <0.001  |
| Type 1                                   | 1.02                              | (0.91-1.15) | 0.76    | 0.65                    | (0.51-0.83) | 0.001   | 1.20                   | (1.07-1.35) | 0.002   |
| Type 2                                   | 0.81                              | (0.75-0.86) | <0.001  | 0.80                    | (0.69-0.92) | 0.003   | 0.86                   | (0.80-0.92) | <0.001  |
| <b>CAD</b>                               | 0.89                              | (0.85-0.93) | <0.001  | 0.73                    | (0.66-0.81) | <0.001  | 0.95                   | (0.91-0.99) | 0.02    |
| <b>PVD</b>                               | 0.83                              | (0.79-0.88) | <0.001  | 0.63                    | (0.55-0.72) | <0.001  | 0.90                   | (0.85-0.95) | <0.001  |
| <b>CVD</b>                               | 0.87                              | (0.81-0.92) | <0.001  | 0.59                    | (0.50-0.70) | <0.001  | 0.94                   | (0.89-1.00) | 0.06    |
| <b>Chronic lung disease</b>              | 0.71                              | (0.67-0.76) | <0.001  | 0.88                    | (0.77-1.01) | 0.06    | 0.73                   | (0.69-0.78) | <0.001  |
| <b>Non-skin cancer ever</b>              | 0.75                              | (0.70-0.80) | <0.001  | 1.26                    | (1.10-1.44) | 0.001   | 0.71                   | (0.67-0.76) | <0.001  |

| <b>CENTER-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS</b>   |      |             |        |      |             |       |      |             |       |
|---|------|-------------|--------|------|-------------|-------|------|-------------|-------|
| <b>Transplant hospital</b>  | 0.86 | (0.50-1.49) | 0.59   | 1.01 | (0.61-1.65) | 0.98  | 0.84 | (0.50-1.40) | 0.50  |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of incident dialysis patients with a permanent access</b> |      |             | 0.06   |      |             | 0.16  |      |             | 0.11  |
| ≤ 46%   | 0.62 | (0.36-1.06) | 0.08   | 1.10 | (0.66-1.80) | 0.72  | 0.60 | (0.36-1.00) | 0.05  |
| 47-55%  | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |       |
| > 55%   | 1.15 | (0.66-2.01) | 0.62   | 1.60 | (0.97-2.65) | 0.07  | 0.94 | (0.56-1.58) | 0.81  |
| <b>Mean annual facility HD weekly hours</b>   |      |             | <0.001 |      |             | 0.004 |      |             | 0.002 |
| ≤ 12.56   | 0.35 | (0.21-0.60) | <0.001 | 0.54 | (0.33-0.88) | 0.01  | 0.43 | (0.26-0.70) | 0.001 |
| 12.56-13.70   | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |       |
| > 13.70   | 0.98 | (0.59-1.63) | 0.19   | 1.38 | (0.86-2.22) | 0.18  | 0.94 | (0.58-1.53) | 0.81  |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of HD patients on HDF</b>                                 |      |             | 0.03   |      |             | 0.75  |      |             | 0.03  |
| ≤ 2%  | 1.55 | (0.90-2.64) | 0.11   | 1.13 | (0.69-1.86) | 0.63  | 1.49 | (0.90-2.46) | 0.12  |
| 3-14%   | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |       |
| > 14%   | 0.71 | (0.42-1.19) | 0.19   | 1.19 | (0.74-1.94) | 0.48  | 0.69 | (0.42-1.13) | 0.15  |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of patients with target solute clearance</b>              |      |             | 0.15   |      |             | 0.91  |      |             | 0.15  |
| ≤ 59%   | 1.10 | (0.64-1.89) | 0.74   | 0.97 | (0.59-1.59) | 0.90  | 1.03 | (0.62-1.72) | 0.91  |
| 60-70%  | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |       |
| > 70%   | 0.64 | (0.38-1.07) | 0.09   | 0.90 | (0.55-1.45) | 0.66  | 0.64 | (0.39-1.04) | 0.07  |
| <b>Mean annual proportion of patients with target hemoglobin</b>                    |      |             | 0.28   |      |             | 0.23  |      |             | 0.58  |
| ≤ 35%   | 0.83 | (0.47-1.48) | 0.53   | 0.78 | (0.46-1.33) | 0.36  | 0.85 | (0.50-1.47) | 0.57  |
| 36-39%  | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |       |
| > 39%   | 0.64 | (0.37-1.11) | 0.11   | 0.65 | (0.39-1.07) | 0.09  | 0.76 | (0.45-1.27) | 0.30  |
| <b>Center size (mean annual number of incident dialysis patients)</b>               |      |             | 0.03   |      |             | 0.17  |      |             | 0.02  |
| ≤ 39  | 0.50 | (0.31-0.83) | 0.008  | 0.68 | (0.43-1.08) | 0.10  | 0.51 | (0.32-0.82) | 0.005 |
| 40-94   | Ref  |             |        | Ref  |             |       | Ref  |             |       |
| > 94  | 0.83 | (0.35-2.01) | 0.69   | 1.23 | (0.57-2.65) | 0.59  | 0.84 | (0.37-1.92) | 0.69  |

ATSI = Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; BMI = Body Mass Index; CAD = coronary artery disease; CVD = cerebrovascular disease; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; HHD = home hemodialysis; PD = peritoneal dialysis; PVD = peripheral vascular disease; Ref = reference (1.00).

All center-level covariates (except transplantation status) are subcategorized into quartiles based on all incident dialysis patients during the study period (1997-2017), with the second and third quartiles merged to become the reference category.

**Figure S1.** Distribution of patients across dialysis modalities within 6 months of dialysis initiation over study period.







## **4 – Variabilité et tendances dans le temps et entre les centres de la durée hebdomadaire du traitement d'hémodialyse**

### **4.1 Sommaire du deuxième article**

Dans l'article précédent, il a été démontré que certaines caractéristiques des centres étaient associées à la variabilité dans le recours à la dialyse à domicile, dont l'HDD, en assistant à ce qu'on qualifie d'effet de centre. Les bénéfices cliniques liés à l'HDD dans plusieurs études antérieures ont souvent été attribués aux longues heures de traitement fréquemment utilisées avec cette modalité de suppléance rénale. En parallèle, une importante publication, en 2006, a démontré un bénéfice sur la survie des patients lorsque le traitement de dialyse était de 4,5 heures ou plus.(66) De plus, on associe aussi à l'HDD des avantages au niveau de la qualité de vie en lien avec la flexibilité de la durée et de l'horaire du traitement rendue possible par cette modalité.

Ce deuxième article s'est donc intéressé à l'évaluation des caractéristiques des patients et des centres associés à la durée hebdomadaire de traitement en HD, évaluant séparément l'HDC et l'HDD. Ainsi, on visait à déterminer si un effet de centre existait également à ce niveau et si les pratiques en matière de durée de traitement variaient de manière importante entre les centres. L'évaluation des tendances à travers le temps était également abordée, autant en HDC qu'en HDD.

Cette étude a permis de démontrer que la durée hebdomadaire de traitement en HD était globalement bien plus longue en HDD qu'en HDC. De plus, la variabilité de cette durée (tant en HDC qu'en HDD) était principalement liée aux caractéristiques des patients, alors qu'aucun effet de centre notable n'a été démontré. Les pratiques en termes de durée de traitement semblaient différer de manière importante d'un état/pays à l'autre, avec une bien plus grande variabilité en HDD qu'en HDC. Aussi, une variation dans les tendances quant à la durée de traitement à travers le temps a pu être démontrée chez les patients en HDD, avec une augmentation de la durée après 2006 qui n'a pas été observée en HDC. Ainsi, ces résultats semblent confirmer une beaucoup plus grande flexibilité offerte par l'HDD, sans les contraintes de ressources présentes en HDC.

Le manuscrit ci-dessous a été publié dans le journal *Nephrology (Carlton)*, Volume 26, Issue 2, Février 2021, pages 153-163. Il avait précédemment été publié en ligne le 22 octobre 2020. doi: 10.1111/nep.13782

L'abrégé de cette étude a également été présenté sous forme d'affiche lors du congrès annuel *Kidney Week* de l'American Society of Nephrology (ASN) sous forme virtuelle en octobre 2020.

Je suis la 1<sup>ère</sup> auteure de cet article. J'ai joué un rôle central dans l'élaboration de la question de recherche, l'analyse des données, l'interprétation des résultats et la rédaction du manuscrit, en plus de la conception des tableaux et figures.

## 4.2 Article 2 – Variability and trends over time and across centres in haemodialysis weekly duration in Australia and New Zealand

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**Running title:** Dialysis duration over time & across centres

**Key words:** Dialysis, Dialysis duration, End-stage kidney disease, Haemodialysis, Treatment time

## **ABSTRACT**

**Aim:** Haemodialysis treatment prescription varies widely internationally. This study explored patient- and centre-level characteristics associated with weekly haemodialysis hours.

**Methods:** Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant (ANZDATA) Registry data was analysed. Characteristics associated with weekly duration were evaluated using mixed-effects linear regression models with patient- and centre-level covariates as fixed effects, and dialysis centre and state as random effects using the 2017 prevalent in-centre haemodialysis (ICHD) and home haemodialysis (HHD) cohorts. Evaluation of patterns of weekly duration over time analysed the 2000 to 2017 incident ICHD and HHD cohorts.

**Results:** Overall, 12,494 ICHD and 1,493 HHD prevalent patients in 2017 were included. Median weekly treatment duration was 13.5 (interquartile range (IQR) 12-15) hours for ICHD and 16 (IQR 15-20) hours for HHD. Male sex, younger age, higher body mass index, arteriovenous fistula/graft use, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ethnicity and longer dialysis vintage were associated with longer weekly duration for both ICHD and HHD. No centre characteristics were associated with duration. Variability in duration across centres was very limited in ICHD compared to HHD, with variation in HHD being associated with state. Duration did not vary significantly over time for ICHD, whereas longer weekly HHD treatments were reported between 2006 and 2012 compared to before and after this period.

**Conclusion:** This study in the Australian and New Zealand haemodialysis population showed that weekly duration was primarily associated with patient characteristics. No centre effect was demonstrated. Practice patterns seemed to differ across states/countries, with more variability in HHD than ICHD.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Optimal haemodialysis treatment duration has been the subject of much debate for many years. In 1981, the National Cooperative Dialysis Study, aiming to develop a definition of adequate long-term dialysis treatment by evaluating different concentrations of blood urea nitrogen (BUN) and treatment times, found that shorter treatment duration appeared to contribute to morbidity.(100) Since then, many observational studies have associated longer dialysis duration with lower mortality.(66,101–110) Among these, a registry analysis from Australia and New Zealand in 2006 concluded that the optimal combination of haemodialysis treatment for better survival appeared to be  $Kt/V \geq 1.3$  and session length of  $\geq 4.5$  hours.(66) While most expert consensus guidelines around the world agree on the recommended haemodialysis dose measured by  $Kt/V$ , the minimum required treatment duration is still variable across countries.(111,112) There are no current recommendations by the Caring for Australians with Renal Impairment (CARI) guidelines on duration and frequency of haemodialysis therapy as the last publication on the subject matter, in 2004, is now out of date.(113) Thus, current clinical practice in terms of haemodialysis treatment duration is expected to be variable and it is unclear if available evidence has been translated into practice. There are also very few studies assessing the impact of centre characteristics on treatment duration.(101,109)

The aim of this study was to describe the patterns of haemodialysis treatment duration in Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) across centres and over time, and to identify the patient- and centre-level characteristics associated with weekly treatment duration in in-centre haemodialysis (ICHHD) and home haemodialysis (HHD) cohorts.

## **METHODS**

### **Study Population**

All adult ( $\geq 18$  years) patients with at least one episode of chronic haemodialysis reported to the Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant (ANZDATA) Registry between 1 January 2000

and 31 December 2017 were eligible, including patients treated by peritoneal dialysis or kidney transplantation prior to haemodialysis commencement. Variation in weekly dialysis duration across centres and states was evaluated using a cohort of all prevalent haemodialysis patients in 2017 while temporal change in dialysis duration was evaluated using an incident cohort, which included all patients who initiated haemodialysis in Australia and New Zealand during the study period. ICHD and HHD cohorts were analysed separately.

De-identified data from ANZDATA were used with permission granted by the ANZDATA registry executive. This study was approved by the Metro South Human Research Ethics Committee (LNR/2019/QMS/53440).

### **Study Outcomes**

The primary outcome was weekly treatment duration in hours, calculated as the number of treatment sessions per week multiplied by the session duration. For the 2017 prevalent cohort, data on weekly treatment duration and potential patient- and centre-level predictor variables were extracted from the annual survey reported on 31 December.

Patient-level characteristics included dialysis vintage, first kidney replacement therapy modality, sex, age, body mass index (BMI), ethnicity, causes of end-stage kidney disease, comorbidities, smoking status, blood flow rate and vascular access. Centre-level characteristics analysed in this study were transplantation centre, remoteness area (major city, regional, remote), centre size (number of prevalent dialysis patients in the centre) and proportion of prevalent dialysis patients on home therapies (peritoneal dialysis and HHD). For the purpose of analyses, the country of New Zealand and every Australian state and territory were considered as a 'state' of residence.

In the incident cohort, weekly duration was calculated using data from the first report to the ANZDATA registry following dialysis initiation. Between 2000 and 2003, weekly duration was reported biannually on 31 March and 31 September; in 2004, it was reported on 31 March and 31 December; and from 2005 to 2017, it was annually reported on 31 December.

## **Statistical Analyses**

Patient and centre characteristics were expressed as frequency (percentage) for categorical variables and median (interquartile range) for non-normally distributed continuous variables. Predictors of weekly duration were analysed by multilevel mixed-effects linear regression models with patient- and centre-level covariates as fixed effects. Dialysis centre and state were included as random effects, such that patients were nested within centres and centres were nested within states. Patient- and centre-level characteristics were included in the multivariable analysis if they had P-values <0.2 in univariable analyses. Analyses were performed using Stata (version 15.1; StataCorp LLC, Texas, USA). Two-sided P<0.05 was considered statistically significant.

## **RESULTS**

### ***Duration of haemodialysis for the 2017 prevalent cohort***

Among 13,987 patients who received haemodialysis in 2017, there were 12,494 ICHD and 1,493 HHD patients (Table 1). Median weekly treatment duration was 13.5 (interquartile range [IQR] 12-15) hours (range 2 to 32 hours) for ICHD and 16 (IQR 15-20) hours (range 4 to 70 hours) for HHD (Table 2). Weekly duration <12 hours was infrequent (7% on ICHD and 2% on HHD). Treatment duration of  $\geq 20$  hours per week represented only 1% of ICHD patients but accounted for 31% of HHD patients. There was more variability in dialysis schedules in HHD than ICHD (Table 2): Ninety-six percent of patients were treated thrice weekly with ICHD, whereas 48% of HHD patients were treated 3 times per week, 26% on alternate days (3.5 times per week) and 24% underwent 4 or more sessions weekly. Session duration ranged from 4 to 5 hours for 93% of ICHD

patients vs. 66% of HHD patients, with an additional 30% of patients treated for more than 5 hours per session in the latter cohort.

Included ICHD patients were treated in 89 different centres in 2017, whereas HHD patients' care was managed by 59 centres (Table 3). Median weekly duration per centre was 13.5 (IQR 12-13.5) hours for ICHD and 16 (IQR 15-18) hours for HHD (Figure 1A).

### ***Predictors of weekly haemodialysis duration for the 2017 prevalent cohort***

In the multivariable mixed-effects linear regression model, male sex, younger age, higher body mass index (BMI), arteriovenous fistula/arteriovenous graft (AVF/AVG) use (compared to central venous catheter), dialysis vintage, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Pacific Islander and Māori ethnicities (compared to Caucasian), peritoneal dialysis as the first kidney replacement therapy (compared to ICHD), and higher blood flow rate were associated with longer weekly duration of ICHD (Table 4). Using the same regression model, male sex, younger age, higher BMI, AVF/AVG as the vascular access, dialysis vintage, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ethnicity were also associated with a longer weekly duration of HHD (Table 4). However, a lower blood flow rate was associated with longer treatment hours on HHD, which includes nocturnal treatment. No patient comorbidity or centre-level characteristic was significantly associated with weekly HD duration for either ICHD or HHD patients in the multilevel mixed-effects model.

Variability in median weekly duration across centres was very limited in ICHD compared to HHD (Figure 1B). However, the number of patients per centre on HHD were appreciably smaller (84 [IQR 26-210] patients per centre on ICHD vs. 16 [IQR 7-31] patients per centre on HHD). Variability in weekly duration was more influenced by the Australian states/New Zealand than by the centres and some of the centre characteristics evaluated in this study were highly correlated with the states. This variability across states was more pronounced in HHD than in ICHD (Figure 2).



### ***Temporal change in dialysis duration in incident haemodialysis patients over time***

The number of incident ICHD and HHD patients increased between 2000 and 2017 (Supplementary Table 1). Median weekly dialysis duration remained relatively stable over time in ICHD at 12 (12-13.5) hours per week. In contrast, more temporal variation in median weekly duration was recorded in HHD, reaching a maximum of 18 (15-24) hours per week in 2007, at which time less than 20% of HHD patients were treated for less than 15 hours weekly (Figure 3). Weekly HHD duration progressively decreased in the following years and has remained overall stable since 2012, with approximately 30% of patients treated for <15 hours per week and around 25% of patients undergoing  $\geq 20$  hours of haemodialysis weekly. From 2012 onwards, shorter weekly treatment duration (<12 hours per week) has also re-emerged, representing around 5% of HHD patients' weekly durations.

## **DISCUSSION**

This binational registry study showed that HHD is associated with longer weekly treatment time compared with ICHD. There was minimal variation in weekly treatment duration of ICHD across centres and over time in Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) and no centre characteristics were identified as predictors of treatment time. HHD weekly treatment duration was more variable across patients, centres and over time during the period of 2000 to 2017 compared to ICHD. Weekly haemodialysis duration appeared to vary more across states/countries, than between centres and variability was particularly pronounced in HHD.

Longer weekly duration was recorded in HHD than in ICHD, with a wider range of treatment times. A European study assessing treatment duration from the ERA-EDTA Registry also found that patients on extended-hours haemodialysis (defined as thrice weekly  $\geq 6$ -hours sessions) were more often treated at home than patients on conventional haemodialysis (thrice weekly 3.5 to 4-h sessions) (6% vs. 0%).(102) In ANZ, no financial incentives or penalties and no official policies or guidelines are in place regarding the required treatment duration. The last published Caring for

Australians with Renal Impairment (CARI) Guidelines on duration and frequency of haemodialysis therapy date back to 2004 and indicated that no recommendation was possible based on Level I or II evidence.(113) The current study shows that general practice across ANZ in 2017 appeared to be based on thrice weekly sessions of 4, 4.5 or 5 hours.

This registry study showed that less than 10% of prevalent ICHD patients were treated for <12h per week in ANZ in 2017. Only 5% of patients had treatment times shorter than 4 hours per session, which contrasts vividly with current practices in the USA. In a recent study by Swaminathan et al., 86,893 American patients were initiated on ICHD, of whom 55% were treated in 631 facilities (43% of all centres) with a uniform treatment time of 3 hours per session three times per week.(109) In Europe, Fotheringham et al. reported about half (52%) of patients on thrice weekly ICHD being treated for approximately 4 hours (226-250 minutes) per session in a cohort of 19,557 prevalent patients participating in the DOPPS from 1998 to 2011, while about 29% of patients were undergoing sessions of less than 4 hours.(110)

One of the main advantages attributed to HHD compared to ICHD regarding patient relevant outcomes, such as quality of life and life participation, is the flexibility of treatment schedules, including nocturnal sessions. Few studies have been published describing weekly duration and schedule pattern in HHD around the world. While HHD has often been associated with short frequent or long hours haemodialysis, about half of HHD patients (48%) in the present study were on a thrice weekly schedule and an additional 26% of patients were treated on alternate days. The remaining quarter of patients were on more intensive schedules (4 or more sessions per week). The higher weekly treatment duration recorded in HHD compared to ICHD in ANZ appears to be mostly due to longer sessions, with about 30% of patients being treated for more than 5 hours per session. Consequently, up to 79% of HHD patients in ANZ undergo  $\geq 15$  hours per week, which would be considered as 'intensive' haemodialysis in many countries.

In keeping with previous studies, younger age,(101)(105)(66)(107)(108) male sex,(101)(105)(66)(107)(108) higher BMI(105)(66)(107)(108) and higher dialysis vintage(105)(107) were associated with longer weekly duration. As also described by Marshall et al. in 2006,(66) patients of Aboriginal, Māori, Torres Strait and Pacific Island descent were more likely to be treated with longer weekly duration on ICHD, although no association was found for Māori and Pacific Islanders on HHD. Higher blood flow rate was more likely with longer hours on ICHD, whereas lower blood flow rate was associated with longer hours on HHD, which is expected in patients undergoing long hours/nocturnal HHD. Contrary to previous studies,(105)(66)(108)(110) none of the evaluated comorbidities (diabetes mellitus, coronary artery disease, cerebrovascular disease, peripheral vascular disease and chronic lung disease) were found to be associated with treatment duration. It should be noted that various regression models were explored, but none showed a good model fit (low R-squared values), partly because of the limited nature of the data collected by the registry. None of the models could efficiently capture the complexity of the factors involved. Therefore, we have decided on a descriptive approach of the variables associated with longer weekly duration rather than emphasizing the specific magnitudes of the coefficients. The final model chosen, while additionally taking into account the structure in the data (patients nested within centres; centres nested within states), agreed with the other models explored and the descriptive analyses.

Variability in median weekly duration across centres was very limited in ICHD. While showing higher variation in HHD, the median number of patients on HHD per centre was very low, resulting in extreme values from small centres. In multivariable mixed-effects linear regression model, none of the centre characteristics assessed was associated with weekly dialysis duration. However, there was a strong association between Australian states/New Zealand and treatment duration. It should also be noted that some of the evaluated characteristics were correlated with the states (for example, there was no transplanting centre in the Northern Territory, Tasmania or the Australian Capital Territory). The variability in weekly duration practices across states appeared more pronounced for HHD than for ICHD. Contrary to the present findings, previous American studies have identified centre-level characteristics associated with different practice

patterns in terms of treatment duration.(101,109) In 2017, in a study comparing patients initiating haemodialysis in facilities with schedules of 3 hours per session vs.  $\geq 4$  hours per session, 3-hour facilities were more likely to have evening dialysis sessions, were less likely to reuse dialyzers and to accept transient patients, and had a higher total number of patients located within their zip code.<sup>10</sup> The identification of centre characteristics associated with dialysis duration in those publications, compared to the present study, could be explained by the variability in payment/reimbursement policies in regards to dialysis between countries and related to other differences in clinical practices (e.g. the reuse of dialyzers in the USA).

Of note, in New Zealand, a smaller difference is noted between ICHD and HHD weekly hours compared to Australian states: up to 35% of ICHD patients were treated with  $\geq 15$  hours, whereas about 25% of HHD patients were part of the highest category of duration ( $\geq 20$  hours/week), a lower proportion than in most Australian states. This apparent restriction in more extended HHD hours in New Zealand might be explained by the utilisation of independent community house haemodialysis.(114) In this submodality of HHD, patients undertake independent haemodialysis in nonmedical community-based home-like settings, without direct nursing or medical supervision. Although these facilities offer more flexibility and autonomy than ICHD, resource limitations can still restrict the weekly treatment duration.

Previously conducted analysis of the ANZDATA registry, published in 2006, showed an association between Kt/V of 1.30-1.39 and session length of 4.5-4.9 hours with the lowest mortality risk, which supports inclusion of treatment time within the definition of adequate haemodialysis practice.(66) Although no updated guidelines were published in ANZ following this publication, the present study showed a trend towards longer dialysis duration in the following years. This increase was quite modest in ICHD practices where it seemed to peak around 2012 with 26% of ICHD patients being treated for  $\geq 15$  hours per week, after which this proportion progressively declined to 22% in 2017. The increase in the absolute number of prevalent ICHD patients might explain this decrease, due to limited resources and possible saturation of centres. In HHD, where

facility resource limitation is not a factor in terms of time restriction, a clearer demarcation in weekly duration increase was observed in the period surrounding the publication of the aforementioned ANZ study. However, this trend towards longer weekly treatment hours was not sustained and the distribution of duration reported in the most recent years resembled that of 2004-2005. Over the years, changes in the perspectives of patient important outcomes (such as quality of life, flexibility of schedule, ability to work and travel, or lifestyle considerations, as also reported by recent patient-centered research(115)) as relevant factors involved in dialysis duration decision, rather than mortality alone, might have influenced the trends. Furthermore, in the last decade, randomized trials were published comparing more frequent or extended hours dialysis to conventional haemodialysis, mainly the Canadian study by Culleton et al,(20) the Frequent Hemodialysis Network (FHN) Daily(116) and Nocturnal(117) studies, and the ACTIVE trial.(118) Although beneficial effects on left ventricular mass, serum phosphate, systolic blood pressure and quality of life have been demonstrated,(20,116–118) long term follow-up data has been conflicting with no consistent mortality benefit<sup>27,28</sup> and harms reported, including vascular access complications,(116,117) perceived caregiver burden(119) and loss of residual kidney function.(120) Considerations of these reports might have been one of the driving forces in limiting the efforts towards more frequent or longer hour treatments. The progressive ageing and higher comorbidity burden of the dialysis population and the move towards ‘palliative’ dialysis over the years could also be factors influencing weekly treatment duration.

The strengths of this registry study include its large sample size (including both ICHD and HHD patients), and the inclusion of both an incident and a prevalent cohort enabling assessment of weekly duration across centres and over time throughout a long evaluation period. However, these strengths have to be balanced against important limitations. Pertaining to the nature of registry analysis, this study is limited by the depth of data available and possible coding bias or error in reporting. Important patient characteristics of relevance in terms of weekly treatment duration were missing. Those include, but are not limited to, residual kidney function, quality of life, employment/life participation and presence of a support person at home. Moreover, other relevant centre characteristics are not available from registry data, such as saturation of centres,

nurse- and doctor-to-patient ratios and private/public status of the centres. Thus, residual confounding could not be excluded, and the complexity of the factors involved could not be captured aptly by the models explored. Finally, this study describes practice patterns in ANZ, where home therapies are widely used in a government funded health system including dialysis treatment, which may not be generalisable to other countries, particularly if different dialysis reimbursement policies are in place.

In conclusion, this registry study of the ANZ haemodialysis population showed that patient-level characteristics are the main determinants of weekly dialysis duration, while no centre effect was demonstrated. Moreover, practice patterns varied markedly across states/countries. The relative absence of resource restrictions in HHD appears to be of prime importance in permitting flexibility in dialysis schedules and longer weekly treatment duration, while also allowing practice patterns to change more freely and permit greater emphasis on patient relevant outcomes and preferences. This reinforces the need for greater support of home dialysis uptake and maintenance across the world, particularly in an era of infrastructural resources' limitation and growing global dialysis populations.

## Article 2 – Tables and Figures

**Table 1.** Characteristics of prevalent haemodialysis patients in 2017.

|   | <b>IN-CENTRE HD</b> | <b>HOME HD</b>   |
|---|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>N=</b>   | <b>12494</b>        | <b>1493</b>      |
| <b>Dialysis vintage (in years)</b>                    | 3.4 (1.4-6.5)       | 4.8 (2.5-8.4)    |
| <b>First kidney replacement therapy modality</b>      |                     |                  |
| In-centre HD  | 10503 (84%)         | 1092 (73%)       |
| Home HD   | 61 (0.5%)           | 141 (9%)         |
| Peritoneal dialysis                                   | 1871 (15%)          | 231 (15%)        |
| Graft   | 59 (0.5%)           | 29 (2%)          |
| <b>Sex</b>  |                     |                  |
| Female  | 5131 (41%)          | 460 (31%)        |
| Male  | 7363 (59%)          | 1033 (69%)       |
| <b>Age at first HD (in years)</b>                     | 63 (51-72)          | 51 (41-60)       |
| <b>Age in 2017 (in years)</b>                         | 67 (55-76)          | 56 (47-65)       |
| <b>Late referral to nephrologist care<sup>†</sup></b> | 2418 (20%)          | 219 (15%)        |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>                                      |                     |                  |
| Caucasian   | 7403 (59%)          | 846 (57%)        |
| Indigenous Australian <sup>‡</sup>                    | 1684 (13%)          | 99 (7%)          |
| Asian   | 1094 (9%)           | 131 (9%)         |
| Māori   | 740 (6%)            | 165 (11%)        |
| Pacific Islander                                      | 892 (7%)            | 184 (12%)        |
| Other   | 446 (4%)            | 50 (3%)          |
| Not reported  | 235 (2%)            | 18 (1%)          |
| <b>Primary kidney disease</b>                         |                     |                  |
| Diabetic nephropathy                                  | 5345 (43%)          | 462 (31%)        |
| Glomerulonephritis                                    | 2335 (19%)          | 468 (31%)        |
| Hypertension  | 1627 (13%)          | 130 (9%)         |
| Polycystic disease                                    | 598 (5%)            | 136 (9%)         |
| Other   | 1762 (14%)          | 236 (16%)        |
| Uncertain/Not reported                                | 827 (7%)            | 61 (4%)          |
| <b>Body mass index (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)<sup>§</sup></b> | 28.7 (24.6-34.0)    | 31.2 (25.7-38.0) |
| <b>Smoking status<sup>¶</sup></b>                     |                     |                  |
| Never   | 5732 (47%)          | 692 (47%)        |
| Former  | 4786 (39%)          | 574 (39%)        |
| Current   | 1708 (14%)          | 209 (14%)        |
| <b>State or country</b>                               |                     |                  |
| New South Wales                                       | 3036 (24%)          | 433 (29%)        |
| Victoria  | 2612 (21%)          | 181 (12%)        |
| Queensland  | 2076 (17%)          | 238 (16%)        |
| Northern Territory                                    | 640 (5%)            | 38 (3%)          |
| South Australia                                       | 774 (6%)            | 33 (2%)          |
| Western Australia                                     | 1139 (9%)           | 98 (7%)          |
| Tasmania  | 203 (2%)            | 10 (1%)          |
| Australian Capital Territory                          | 161 (1%)            | 20 (1%)          |
| New Zealand   | 1752 (14%)          | 442 (30%)        |

|  |               |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Comorbidities<sup>††</sup></b>            |               |               |
| Diabetes mellitus                            | 7127 (57%)    | 658 (44%)     |
| Coronary artery disease                      | 5236 (42%)    | 432 (29%)     |
| Cerebrovascular disease                      | 1941 (16%)    | 123 (8%)      |
| Peripheral vascular disease                  | 2978 (24%)    | 215 (14%)     |
| Chronic lung disease                         | 2196 (18%)    | 213 (14%)     |
| <b>Blood flow rate (mL/min)<sup>††</sup></b> | 300 (300-300) | 300 (265-300) |
| <b>Current vascular access<sup>§§</sup></b>  |               |               |
| AVF / AVG                                    | 9720 (78%)    | 1389 (81%)    |
| Central venous catheter                      | 2746 (22%)    | 102 (19%)     |

Values are expressed as frequency (percentage) for categorical variables and median (interquartile range) for non-normally distributed continuous variables.

AVF/AVG = arteriovenous fistula/arteriovenous graft; HD = haemodialysis.

<sup>†</sup> Data on late referral to nephrologist care (<3 months before commencement of kidney replacement therapy) were missing for 2% of patients.

<sup>‡</sup> Indigenous Australian refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

<sup>§</sup> Data on body mass index were missing for 2% of patients.

<sup>¶</sup> Data on smoking status were missing for 2% of patients.

<sup>††</sup> Data on comorbidities were missing for less than 0.3% of patients.

<sup>††</sup> Data on blood flow rate were missing for less than 0.1% of patients.

<sup>§§</sup> Data on vascular access were missing for 0.2% of patients.



**Table 2.** Dialysis duration and schedule of prevalent haemodialysis patients in 2017.

|                                      | <b>IN-CENTRE HD<br/>N=12494</b> | <b>HOME HD<br/>N=1493</b> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Weekly duration (in hours)</b>    |                                 |                           |
| Mean ± standard deviation            | 13.1 ± 2.0                      | 18.2 ± 6.2                |
| Median (interquartile range)         | 13.5 (12-15)                    | 16 (15-20)                |
| <b>Weekly duration by categories</b> |                                 |                           |
| <12 hours                            | 872 (7%)                        | 34 (2%)                   |
| 12-<15 hours                         | 8053 (64%)                      | 285 (19%)                 |
| 15-<20 hours                         | 3468 (28%)                      | 712 (48%)                 |
| 20+ hours                            | 101 (1%)                        | 462 (31%)                 |
| <b>Number of sessions per week</b>   |                                 |                           |
| <3 sessions                          | 368 (3%)                        | 17 (1%)                   |
| 3 sessions                           | 11972 (96%)                     | 722 (48%)                 |
| 3.5 sessions (alternate days)        | 19 (<1%)                        | 391 (26%)                 |
| 4+ sessions                          | 129 (1%)                        | 363 (24%)                 |
| <b>Number of hours per session</b>   |                                 |                           |
| <4 hours                             | 606 (5%)                        | 47 (3%)                   |
| 4 hours                              | 5291 (42%)                      | 273 (18%)                 |
| >4-<5 hours                          | 3055 (25%)                      | 183 (12%)                 |
| 5 hours                              | 3181 (26%)                      | 542 (36%)                 |
| >5-<8 hours                          | 313 (3%)                        | 265 (18%)                 |
| 8+ hours                             | 48 (<1%)                        | 183 (12%)                 |

Values are expressed as frequency (percentage) for categorical variables.

HD = haemodialysis

**Table 3.** Centre characteristics for prevalent haemodialysis patients in 2017.

|   | <b>IN-CENTRE HD</b> | <b>HOME HD</b>        |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>N centres=</b>   | <b>89</b>           | <b>59<sup>†</sup></b> |
| <b>Number of included patients per centre</b>                             | 84 (26-210)         | 16 (7-31)             |
| <b>Transplant centre</b>  | 20 (22%)            | 20 (34%)              |
| <b>Remoteness area</b>  |                     |                       |
| Major city  | 60 (67%)            | 37 (63%)              |
| Regional  | 28 (31%)            | 21 (36%)              |
| Remote  | 1 (1%)              | 1 (2%)                |
| <b>Centre size (number of prevalent dialysis patients)</b>                | 95 (49-284)         | 194 (95-337)          |
| <b>Proportion of prevalent dialysis patients on home therapies (in %)</b> | 23 (0-31)           | 28 (23-35)            |
| <b>State or country</b>   |                     |                       |
| New South Wales   | 25 (28%)            | 18 (31%)              |
| Victoria  | 18 (20%)            | 9 (15%)               |
| Queensland  | 24 (27%)            | 11 (19%)              |
| Northern Territory  | 2 (2%)              | 2 (3%)                |
| South Australia   | 2 (2%)              | 2 (3%)                |
| Western Australia   | 3 (3%)              | 3 (5%)                |
| Tasmania  | 2 (2%)              | 2 (3%)                |
| Australian Capital Territory  | 2 (2%)              | 1 (2%)                |
| New Zealand   | 11 (12%)            | 11 (19%)              |

Values are expressed as frequency (percentage) for categorical variables and median (interquartile range) for continuous variables.

† The 59 centres from which home HD patients' care was managed are a subset of the 89 in-centre HD centres.

HD = haemodialysis

**Table 4.** Mixed-effects linear regression analyses of weekly duration (in hours) of in-centre and home haemodialysis in the 2017 prevalent cohort.

|  | IN-CENTRE HD         |         | HOME HD              |         |
|--|----------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
|  | Coefficient (95%CI)  | P value | Coefficient (95%CI)  | P value |
| <b>Dialysis vintage (in years)</b>               | 0.04 (0.04, 0.05)    | <0.001  | 0.14 (0.08, 0.19)    | <0.001  |
| <b>First kidney replacement therapy modality</b> |                      | <0.001  |                      | 0.10    |
| In-centre HD                                     | Ref                  |         | Ref                  |         |
| Home HD  | -0.01 (-0.46, 0.44)  | 0.97    | -0.38 (-1.08, 0.32)  | 0.29    |
| Peritoneal dialysis                              | 0.20 (0.11, 0.29)    | <0.001  | -0.70 (-1.61, 0.21)  | 0.13    |
| Graft  | 0.18 (-0.30, 0.65)   | 0.47    | -1.71 (-3.47, 0.05)  | 0.06    |
| <b>Male sex</b>                                  | 0.65 (0.58, 0.72)    | <0.001  | 1.94 (1.41, 2.47)    | <0.001  |
| <b>Age in 2017 (in years)</b>                    | -0.03 (-0.03, -0.03) | <0.001  | -0.07 (-0.09, -0.05) | <0.001  |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>                                 |                      | <0.001  |                      | 0.02    |
| Caucasian  | Ref                  |         | Ref                  |         |
| Indigenous Australian <sup>†</sup>               | 0.24 (0.10, 0.38)    | 0.001   | -1.45 (-2.72, -0.18) | 0.03    |
| Asian  | 0.13 (0.01, 0.25)    | 0.04    | 0.42 (-0.47, 1.32)   | 0.36    |
| Māori  | 0.34 (0.17, 0.52)    | <0.001  | 0.74 (-0.24, 1.71)   | 0.14    |
| Pacific Islander                                 | 0.43 (0.27, 0.58)    | <0.001  | 0.78 (-0.10, 1.67)   | 0.08    |
| Other  | 0.04 (-0.13, 0.22)   | 0.62    | -0.87 (-2.22, 0.48)  | 0.21    |
| Not reported                                     | 0.06 (-0.23, 0.36)   | 0.67    | -1.34 (-3.69, 1.01)  | 0.27    |
| <b>Primary kidney disease</b>                    |                      | <0.001  |                      | 0.01    |
| Diabetic nephropathy                             | Ref                  |         | Ref                  |         |
| Glomerulonephritis                               | 0.01 (-0.11, 0.13)   | 0.89    | -0.54 (-1.20, 0.11)  | 0.11    |
| Hypertension                                     | -0.12 (-0.25, 0.001) | 0.05    | -1.30 (-2.23, -0.38) | 0.006   |
| Polycystic disease                               | 0.14 (-0.04, 0.32)   | 0.12    | 0.12 (-0.84, 1.08)   | 0.80    |
| Other  | -0.20 (-0.32, -0.07) | 0.002   | -0.99 (-1.79, -0.19) | 0.02    |
| Uncertain/Not reported                           | -0.19 (-0.35, -0.04) | 0.01    | 0.39 (-0.93, 1.72)   | 0.56    |
| <b>Body mass index (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>        | 0.05 (0.05, 0.06)    | <0.001  | 0.08 (0.05, 0.11)    | <0.001  |
| <b>Smoking status</b>                            |                      | 0.06    | -----                | -----   |
| Never  | Ref                  |         | -----                | -----   |
| Former   | 0.06 (-0.01, 0.13)   | 0.10    | -----                | -----   |
| Current  | -0.05 (-0.15, 0.05)  | 0.30    | -----                | -----   |
| <b>Comorbidities</b>                             |                      |         |                      |         |
| Diabetes mellitus                                | 0.06 (-0.04, 0.16)   | 0.23    | -----                | -----   |
| Coronary artery disease                          | -----                | -----   | -0.35 (-0.92, 0.21)  | 0.22    |
| Cerebrovascular disease                          | -0.05 (-0.14, 0.04)  | 0.31    | -0.36 (-1.24, 0.52)  | 0.42    |
| Peripheral vascular disease                      | 0.04 (-0.04, 0.12)   | 0.32    | -----                | -----   |
| <b>Blood flow rate (mL/min)</b>                  | 0.005 (0.004, 0.006) | <0.001  | -0.04 (-0.04, -0.03) | <0.001  |
| <b>Current vascular access</b>                   |                      |         |                      |         |
| AVF / AVG  | Ref                  |         | Ref                  |         |
| Central venous catheter                          | -0.40 (-0.48, -0.31) | <0.001  | -2.09 (-3.06, -1.12) | <0.001  |
| <b>Transplant centre</b>                         | -----                | -----   | 0.04 (-2.12, 2.20)   | 0.97    |
| <b>Remoteness area</b>                           |                      | 0.57    |                      | 0.99    |
| Major city                                       | Ref                  |         | Ref                  |         |
| Regional   | -0.21 (-0.59, 0.18)  | 0.29    | -0.12 (-2.51, 2.27)  | 0.92    |
| Remote   | -0.21 (-1.73, 1.31)  | 0.78    | -0.23 (-7.44, 6.99)  | 0.95    |

|   |                     |      |                     |      |
|---|---------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| <b>Centre size (number of prevalent dialysis patients)<sup>‡</sup></b>                |                     | 0.73 |                     | 0.95 |
| <50 / < 96 patients   | 0.25 (-0.46, 0.96)  | 0.49 | -0.38 (-2.87, 2.10) | 0.76 |
| 50-284 / 96-337 patients  | Ref                 |      | Ref                 |      |
| > 284 / > 337 patients  | -0.09 (-0.49, 0.31) | 0.67 | -0.14 (-2.44, 2.15) | 0.90 |
| <b>Proportion of prevalent dialysis patients on home therapies (in %)<sup>‡</sup></b> |                     | 0.57 |                     | 0.53 |
| 0 / < 24%   | -0.38 (-1.07, 0.32) | 0.29 | -1.00 (-3.23, 1.23) | 0.38 |
| 1-31 / 24-35%   | Ref                 |      | Ref                 |      |
| > 31 / > 35%  | -0.03 (-0.43, 0.37) | 0.89 | -1.05 (-3.24, 1.14) | 0.35 |

Patient- and centre-level characteristics were included in the multivariable analyses if they had P values <0.2 in univariable analyses.

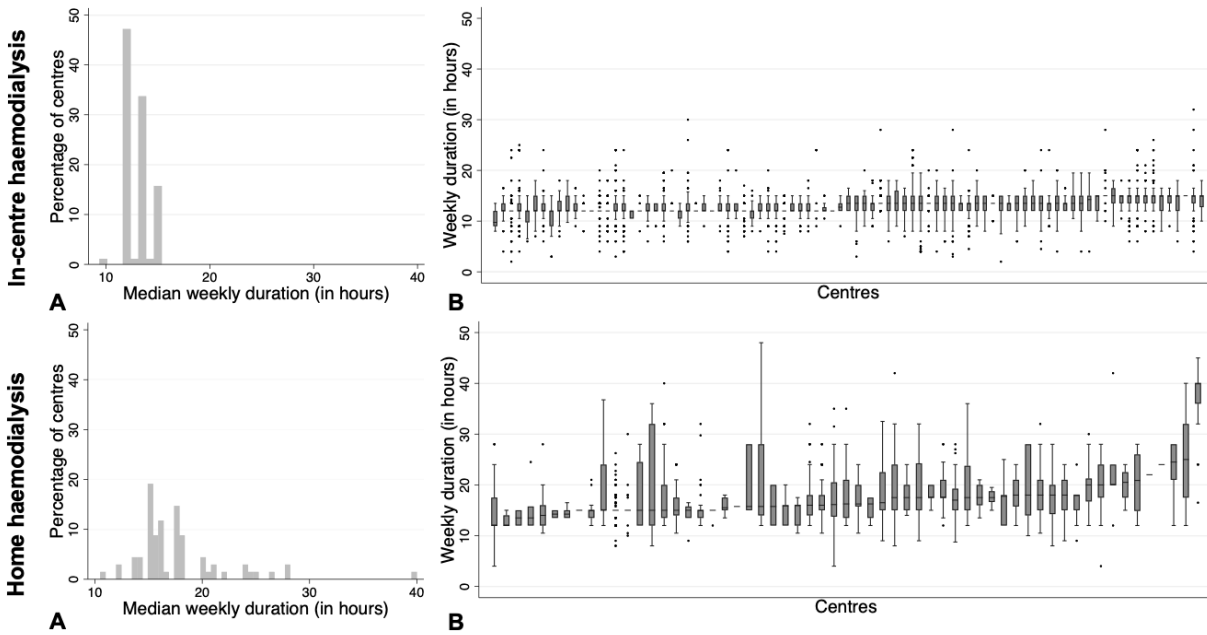
The coefficients reported in this table are unstandardised coefficients.

<sup>†</sup> Indigenous Australian refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

<sup>‡</sup> Centre size and proportion of prevalent dialysis patients on home therapies were subcategorized into quartiles, with the second and third quartiles merged to become the reference category. Values defining quartiles are expressed for in-centre/home haemodialysis.

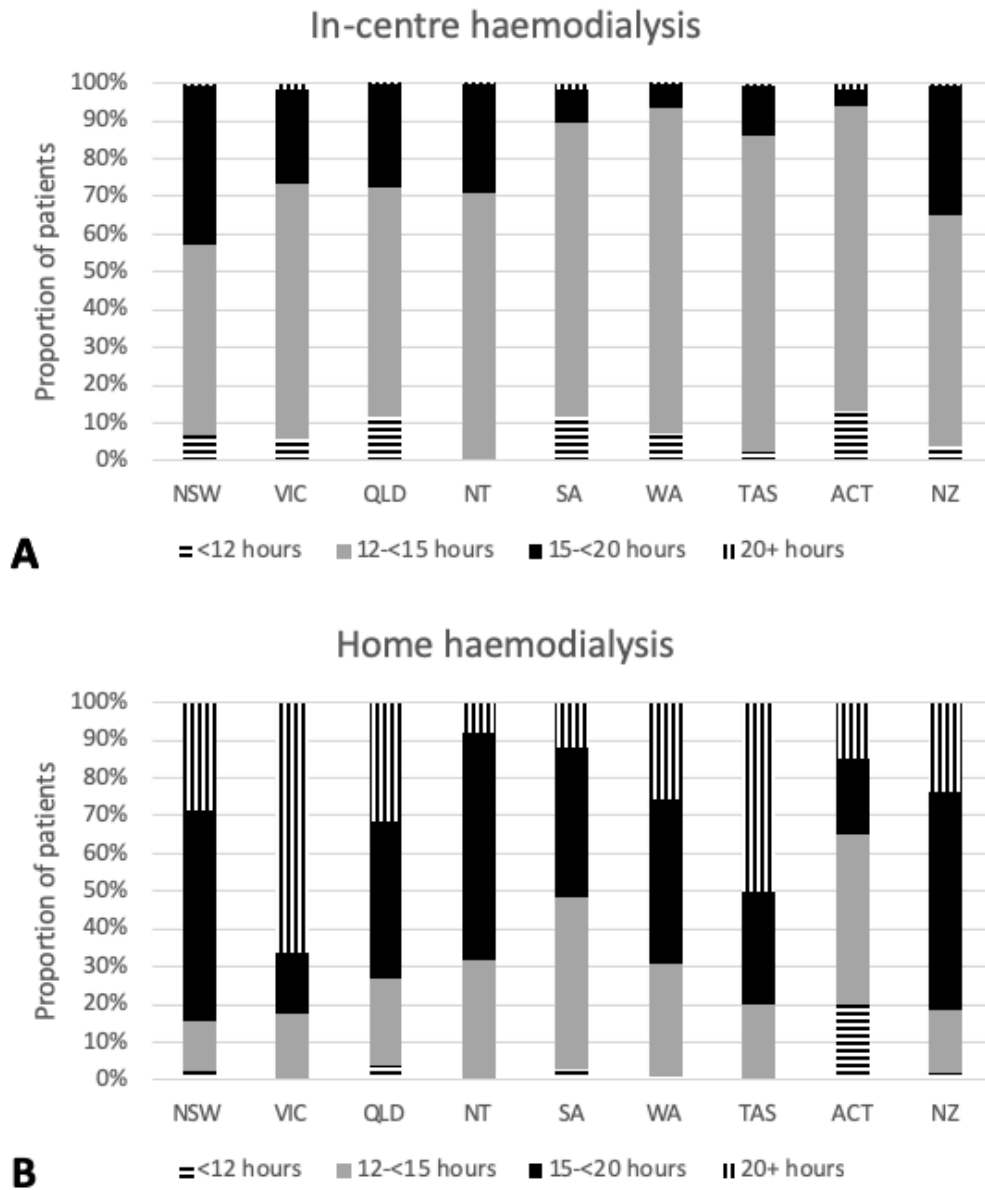
95%CI = 95% confidence interval; AVF/AVG = arteriovenous fistula/arteriovenous graft; HD = haemodialysis; Ref = reference.

**Figure 1.** Distribution of median weekly duration [A] and variability of weekly duration [B] across centres on in-centre and home haemodialysis.



*Note: Two outlier values (weekly duration of 56 and 70 hours) are not shown on the home haemodialysis figure B for better visualisation of the overall values.*

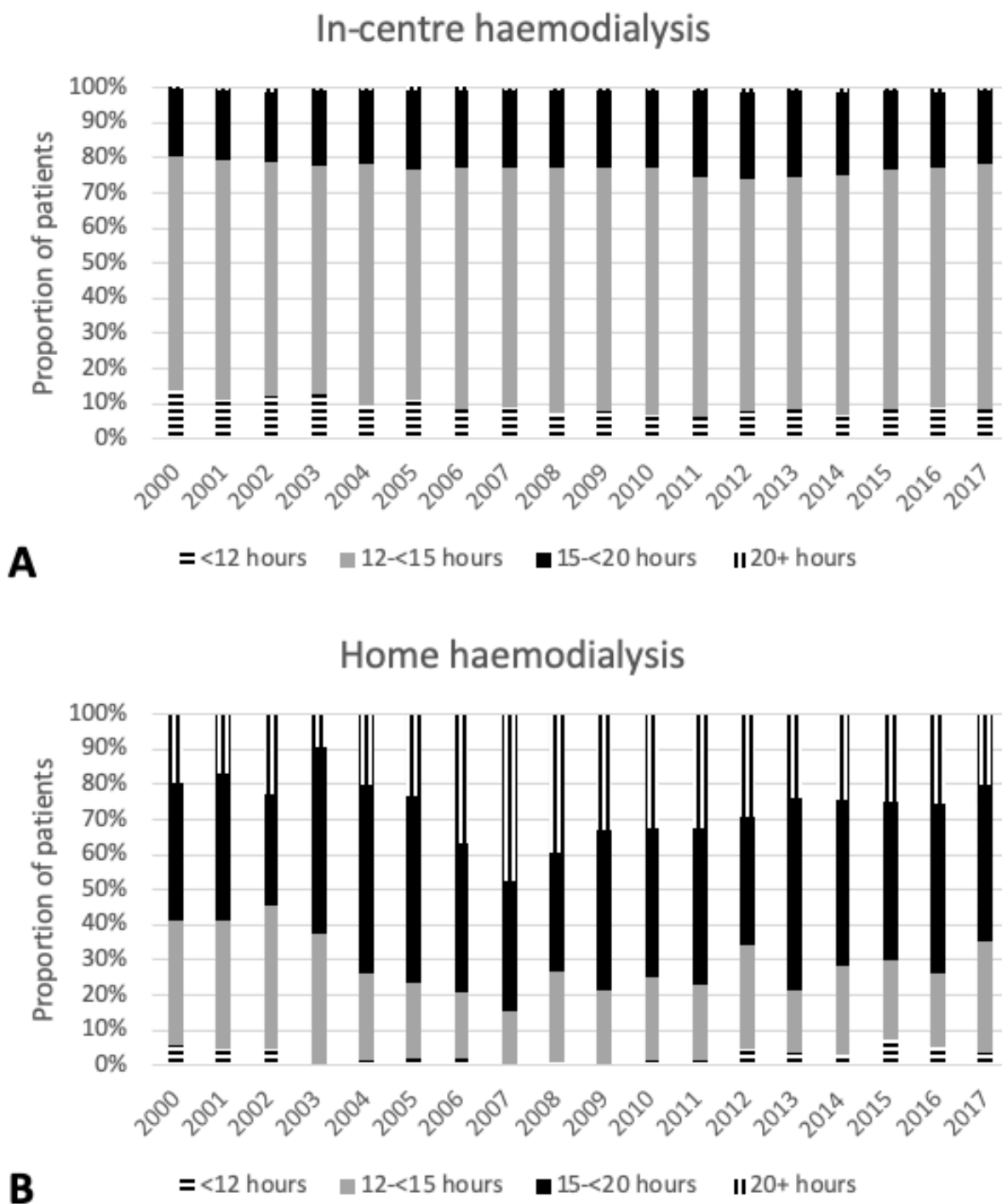
**Figure 2.** Distribution of weekly treatment duration across states<sup>†</sup> on in-centre [A] and home haemodialysis [B].



<sup>†</sup> For the purpose of analyses, New Zealand and Australian territories were considered as a 'state'.

ACT = Australian Capital Territory; NSW = New South Wales; NT = Northern Territory; NZ = New Zealand; QLD = Queensland; SA = South Australia; TAS = Tasmania; VIC = Victoria; WA = Western Australia.

**Figure 3.** Distribution of weekly treatment duration over time on in-centre [A] and home haemodialysis [B].



## Article 2 – Supplementary data

**Table S1.** Weekly dialysis duration of incident haemodialysis patients over time.

| Year of HD initiation | IN-CENTRE HD       |                              | HOME HD            |                              |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
|                       | Number of patients | Median weekly duration (IQR) | Number of patients | Median weekly duration (IQR) |
| 2000                  | 1780               | 12 (12-13.5)                 | 51                 | 15 (12-16.5)                 |
| 2001                  | 1859               | 12 (12-13.5)                 | 41                 | 15 (12-16.5)                 |
| 2002                  | 1813               | 12 (12-13.5)                 | 44                 | 15 (12-16.5)                 |
| 2003                  | 1966               | 12 (12-13.5)                 | 43                 | 15 (12-15)                   |
| 2004                  | 1973               | 12 (12-13.5)                 | 69                 | 15 (13.5-18)                 |
| 2005                  | 2264               | 12 (12-13.5)                 | 111                | 15 (15-19.5)                 |
| 2006                  | 2325               | 12 (12-13.5)                 | 111                | 16.5 (15-24)                 |
| 2007                  | 2255               | 12 (12-13.5)                 | 111                | 18 (15-24)                   |
| 2008                  | 2385               | 12 (12-13.5)                 | 109                | 16.5 (14-24)                 |
| 2009                  | 2335               | 12 (12-13.5)                 | 130                | 15 (15-20)                   |
| 2010                  | 2278               | 12 (12-13.5)                 | 124                | 16 (14.5-21)                 |
| 2011                  | 2408               | 12 (12-15)                   | 132                | 16 (15-20.5)                 |
| 2012                  | 2235               | 12 (12-15)                   | 150                | 15 (13.5-20)                 |
| 2013                  | 2316               | 12 (12-15)                   | 165                | 16 (15-18)                   |
| 2014                  | 2265               | 12 (12-14)                   | 159                | 15 (14-19)                   |
| 2015                  | 2222               | 12 (12-13.5)                 | 155                | 16 (14-20)                   |
| 2016                  | 2269               | 12 (12-13.5)                 | 138                | 15 (14-20)                   |
| 2017                  | 2636               | 12 (12-13.5)                 | 144                | 15 (13.5-18)                 |

HD = haemodialysis; IQR = interquartile range.



## **5 – Comparaison de la survie chez les patients en hémodialyse à domicile et les receveurs de transplantation rénale**

### **5.1 Sommaire du troisième article**

La transplantation rénale est encore considérée comme la TSR démontrant le plus de bénéfices pour les patients, tant au niveau de la survie que de la qualité de vie. Toutefois, avec l'augmentation constante de la quantité de patients requérant une TSR, on assiste actuellement à une pénurie d'organes pour la transplantation. Par ailleurs, dans l'article précédent, il a été identifié que l'HDD permettait une plus grande flexibilité dans l'horaire et dans la durée de traitement que l'HDC, la première n'étant pas autant affectée par la limitation des ressources que l'HDC. Les données d'études antérieures sont contradictoires quant à la comparabilité de l'HDD et de la transplantation. De plus, ces études proviennent principalement de l'Amérique du Nord, où le recours à l'HDD est bien moindre qu'en ANZ.

Ce troisième article s'est penché sur la comparaison de la survie des patients et de leur TSR entre les patients en HDD et les greffés rénaux en Australie et en Nouvelle-Zélande de 1997 à 2017.

Cette vaste étude de registre, permettant l'inclusion d'une importante cohorte de patients en HDD, a démontré que la transplantation rénale offre un avantage de survie par rapport à l'HDD, mais que cet avantage n'est pas significatif pour les receveurs de donneurs à critères élargis. Ainsi, ces résultats supportent l'utilisation de l'HDD chez les candidats à la transplantation rénale plus « marginaux » qui reçoivent plus souvent des reins de donneurs à critères élargis, puisque l'HDD pourrait être une alternative équivalente au niveau de la survie, selon le type de donneur pressenti. Il n'en demeure pas moins qu'il faut également tenir compte d'autres facteurs importants pour le patient, tels que la qualité de vie.

Le manuscrit ci-dessous a été publié dans le journal *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation* le 3 septembre 2020 (publication électronique). doi: 10.1093/ndt/gfaa159

L'abrégé de cette étude a également été présenté sous forme d'affiche et de présentation orale courte lors du congrès annuel de l'European Renal Association—European Dialysis and Transplantation Association (ERA-EDTA) sous forme virtuelle en juin 2020, remportant une mention dans la catégorie « *Best Abstracts Presented By Young Authors* ».

Je suis la 1<sup>ère</sup> auteure de cet article. J'ai joué un rôle central dans l'élaboration de la question de recherche, l'analyse des données, l'interprétation des résultats et la rédaction du manuscrit, en plus de la conception des tableaux et figures.

## 5.2 Article 3 – Multi-center registry analysis comparing survival on home hemodialysis and kidney transplant recipients in Australia and New Zealand

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**Running title:** Home HD vs transplantation outcomes

**Key words:** End-stage kidney disease, Follow-up studies, Home dialysis, Home hemodialysis, Kidney transplantation, Living donors, Mortality, Survival analysis, Treatment failure, Treatment outcome

## ABSTRACT

**Background:** In the era of organ shortage, home hemodialysis (HHD) has been identified as the possible preferential bridge to kidney transplantation. Data are conflicting regarding the comparability of HHD and transplantation outcomes. This study aimed to compare patient and treatment survival between HHD patients and kidney transplant recipients.

**Methods:** The Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry was used to include incident HHD patients on day 90 after initiation of kidney replacement therapy and first kidney-only transplant recipients in Australia and New Zealand from 1997 to 2017. Survival times were analyzed using the Kaplan-Meier product limit method comparing HHD patients to subtypes of kidney transplant recipients using the log-rank test. Adjusted analyses were performed with multivariable Cox proportional hazards regression models for time to all-cause mortality. Time-to-treatment failure or death was assessed as a composite secondary outcome.

**Results:** The study compared 1411 HHD patients to 4960 living donor (LD) recipients, 6019 standard criteria donor (SCD) recipients and 2427 expanded criteria donor (ECD) recipients. While LD and SCD recipients had reduced risks of mortality compared to HHD patients (LD adjusted hazard ratio [HR] 0.57, 95%CI 0.46-0.71; SCD HR 0.65 95%CI 0.52-0.79), the risk of mortality was comparable between ECD recipients and HHD patients (HR 0.90, 95%CI 0.73-1.12). LD, SCD and ECD kidney recipients each experienced superior time-to-treatment failure or death compared to HHD patients.

**Conclusions:** This large registry study showed that kidney transplant offers a survival benefit compared to HHD but that this advantage is not significant for ECD recipients.

## INTRODUCTION

Kidney transplantation is still considered the best kidney replacement therapy (KRT) for patients with end-stage kidney disease (ESKD). Home hemodialysis (HHD) has been associated with improved patient autonomy and quality of life, while showing similar, if not superior, outcomes compared with facility hemodialysis.(117,121) In an era of organ scarcity, intensive home hemodialysis (IHHD) has been identified as the possible preferential bridge to transplantation. A previous study observed comparable survival between Canadian patients receiving IHHD ( $\geq 16$ h/week) and matched deceased donor kidney transplant recipients in the United States, while matched living donor kidney transplant recipients in the United States experienced superior survival.(122) However, this comparison may not have been appropriate since kidney transplant recipient survival in the United States has been reported to be inferior to that of Canadian kidney transplant recipients.(123) In 2014, another Canadian study showed kidney transplantation to be associated with better patient and treatment survival but higher early hospitalization rates than IHHD.(124) More recently, an American study comparing survival of incident HHD patients to those receiving a kidney transplant showed a 4 times higher mortality for HHD patients, regardless of the type of donor.(125) However, kidney transplant outcomes in the United States are considerably poorer than those in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand.(126) Moreover, there has not been a comprehensive evaluation of this matter in Australia and New Zealand,(75) where HHD utilization is appreciably higher and practice patterns differ considerably from those in Canada(77) and the United States.(78) The aim of the study was to compare patient and treatment survival in HHD patients and kidney transplant recipients in Australia and New Zealand from 1997 to 2017. We hypothesized that kidney transplant recipients have superior patient and treatment survival compared with HHD patients.

## **METHODS**

### **Study Population**

This study included all incident adult ( $\geq 18$  years) patients on HHD on day 90 after initiation of KRT and all incident adult first kidney transplant recipients, between 1 January 1997 and 31 December 2017 in Australia and New Zealand reported to the Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant (ANZDATA) Registry. Multi-organ transplant recipients were excluded. De-identified data from ANZDATA were used with permission granted by the ANZDATA executive. This study was approved by the Metro South Human Research Ethics Committee (LNR/2019/QMS/52197) and results were reported according to the STROBE guidelines.(79)

### **Baseline characteristics**

Patient characteristics collected at cohort entry included sex, age, body mass index (BMI), ethnicity, causes of ESKD, comorbidities, smoking status, estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) at cohort entry (using the MDRD-4 formula) and late referral to nephrologist care (patient seen <3 months before first dialysis treatment).

### **Exposure Assessment**

All HHD patients were analyzed as a single cohort, irrespective of their weekly treatment duration and dialysis schedules. Kidney transplant recipients were subcategorized according to donor status: living donor (LD), standard criteria donor (SCD) and expanded criteria donor (ECD). ECD was defined based on the following criteria: 1) deceased donor >60 years old or 2) deceased donor age between 50 and 59 years and the presence of at least 2 other risk factors (history of hypertension, creatinine >1.5mg/dL or cerebrovascular cause of death). Patients with missing SCD/ECD status (n=67) were labelled as SCD.

## **Study Outcomes**

The primary outcome was overall mortality, defined as death on therapy (HHD or transplant) or within 30 days after transfer to a different KRT modality (excluding transplantation). Survival was assessed from the first day of home hemodialysis in HHD patients and the day of transplantation in kidney recipients until last follow-up or end of the study period (31 December 2017), whichever occurred first. HHD patients were censored for transplantation, kidney function recovery after >60 days on HHD, or technique failure, defined as permanent (>30 days) transfer to another dialysis modality (peritoneal dialysis or facility hemodialysis). Transplant recipients were censored at graft failure, defined as transfer to any dialysis modality. Both cohorts were exclusive: HHD patients receiving a kidney graft did not re-enter the transplant cohort and kidney transplant recipients treated with HHD after graft failure did not re-enter the HHD cohort. Composite of time-to-treatment failure or death was evaluated as a secondary outcome.

## **Statistical Analyses**

Patient characteristics were expressed as frequency (percentage) for categorical variables and median (interquartile range) for non-normally distributed continuous variables. Chi-squared (for categorical variables) and Kruskal-Wallis (for non-normally distributed continuous variables) tests were used to assess differences between cohorts.

### **PRIMARY AND SECONDARY OUTCOMES**

Survival times were analyzed using the Kaplan-Meier product limit method and compared HHD patients to LD, SCD and ECD recipients using the log-rank test. The proportionality assumption was examined visually with log-log survival plots. Adjusted analyses were performed with multivariable Cox proportional hazards regression models for time-to-event analyses. All baseline patient characteristics variables with p-values <0.2 in univariable Cox proportional hazards regression models were included in the adjusted model: sex, age, dialysis vintage, BMI, ethnicity, cause of ESKD, country, comorbidities at cohort entry (coronary artery disease, peripheral artery



disease, cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease, history of non-skin cancer) and current smoking status.

#### SENSITIVITY ANALYSES

To account for a potential era effect, time from study start to cohort entry was included in a different model as a continuous variable in a sensitivity analysis. As the HHD cohort included only incident dialysis on HHD at 90 days after KRT initiation, a separate analysis including only transplant recipients with a dialysis vintage of 90 days or less was also explored. To account for differences between countries, separate analyses in each country using the primary model were also carried out. As dialysis vintage was highly correlated with the groups, in part owing to the inclusion of an incident HHD cohort, alternative models excluding dialysis vintage were carried out. Methods for sensitivity analyses involving propensity score matching strategies are described in the Supplemental Material.

#### ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

Additional analyses were conducted in a cohort including only patients deemed eligible for a kidney transplant during the study period, defined as patients who had ever been on the national waitlist for kidney transplantation during the study period. Unfortunately, these data have only been available to ANZDATA Registry since 2006 and restricted to Australian patients. Therefore, all Australian transplant recipients who entered the cohort from 2006 to 2017 and all Australian HHD patients entering the cohort from 2006 to 2017 who were ever registered on the national kidney transplant list during this period were included in this additional analysis.

Analyses were performed using Stata (version 15.1; StataCorp LLC, Texas, USA).  $P < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

## RESULTS

After excluding 746 multiorgan transplant recipients, 13,406 incident first kidney-only transplant recipients were compared to 1411 incident HHD patients (Figure 1). Baseline patient characteristics of the complete cohorts are presented in Table 1. Significant differences were reported between cohorts for all variables. HHD patients were more likely to be male, had a higher prevalence of diabetes (29%) and history of non-skin cancer (9%), and had a substantial burden of coronary artery disease (14%). Median weekly treatment duration in HHD patients was 15 (13-17) hours (min=4 hours; max=48 hours); median duration of each dialysis session was 5 (4-5) hours; median number of sessions per week was 3 (3-3.5) sessions. LD recipients were younger, less likely to be current smokers and had a lower burden of comorbidities. ECD recipients showed the highest prevalence of cardiovascular comorbidities. Owing to the choice of an incident cohort of HHD patients, dialysis vintage at cohort entry was much shorter in HHD patients, followed by LD recipients for which pre-emptive transplant was performed in 32% of the cohort. ECD recipients showed the longest dialysis vintage with more than 50% of the cohort having been on dialysis for more than 3 years at cohort entry. Median follow-up time was 2.3 (IQR 1.0-4.2) years for HHD patients, and 7.2 (3.3-11.3), 5.7 (2.2-10.7) and 4.1 (1.5-7.6) years for LD, SCD and ECD recipients, respectively. Over the course of the study period, 674 HHD patients (48%) were transplanted (82% within the first 5 years) and 285 (20%) were permanently transferred to another dialysis modality (82% within the first 5 years). Similarly, graft failure occurred in 2022 transplant recipients (15%). Only 1% of patients were lost to follow-up, none in the HHD cohort.

### PRIMARY OUTCOME: MORTALITY

During the study, 2070 patients died (96,899 years at risk; mortality incidence rate of 30 per 1000 patient-years for HHD patients vs. 13, 24 and 35 per 1000 patient-years for LD, SCD and ECD recipients, respectively; Figure 2A). Using multivariable Cox regression adjusted for patients' baseline characteristics, the adjusted hazard ratios (HR) for death compared to HHD patients were 0.57 (95%CI 0.46-0.71), 0.65 (95%CI 0.52-0.79) and 0.90 (95%CI 0.73-1.12) for LD, SCD and ECD recipients, respectively (Figure 3). The observed difference in survival between ECD recipients and

HHD patients was not statistically significant. The alternative multivariable Cox regression model in which dialysis vintage was not included (Figure 3) demonstrated that ECD recipients and HHD patients had comparable mortality (HR 1.17, 95%CI 0.95-1.44), while the difference between SCD recipients and HHD patients was also not significant (HR 0.82, 95%CI 0.68-1.00).

#### SENSITIVITY ANALYSES

In sensitivity analyses (Figure 3), adding era as a continuous variable to the Cox regression model showed similar results to the primary analysis. In the analysis including only patients with dialysis vintage of 90 days or less, survival was significantly better in LD (HR 0.39, 95%CI 0.28-0.54) and SCD (HR 0.22, 95%CI 0.08-0.61) recipients compared to HHD patients, although ECD recipients had similar survival to HHD patients (HR 0.91, 95%CI 0.37-2.28). It should be noted that only 40 patients were included in this restricted ECD recipient cohort. In separate analyses carried out for both Australia and New Zealand, hazard ratios for mortality were lower for LD and SCD recipients in New Zealand than in Australia but ECD recipients' outcomes remained comparable to the primary analysis in both countries.

Overall, results from the analyses involving propensity score matching were similar to the main analyses (Supplemental Results and Tables S1, S2, S3).

#### SECONDARY OUTCOME: TIME-TO-TREATMENT FAILURE (INCLUDING DEATH)

All cohorts of kidney transplant recipients showed a significantly better composite survival compared to HHD patients in unadjusted and adjusted analyses (Figure 2B, Table 2). The best outcomes were observed for LD recipients, followed by SCD recipients and then ECD recipients.

## ADDITIONAL ANALYSES EXAMINING WAITLISTED COHORT

Between 2006 and 2017, 9842 patients entered the cohorts. After exclusion of 1255 patients from New Zealand and 510 HHD patients who were never registered on the kidney transplantation waitlist, 8077 patients (404 HHD patients and 7673 transplant recipients) were included in the subset of Australian patients for additional analyses (Supplemental Table S4). Median follow-up time was 4.1 (1.7-7.1) years. Over the study period (2006-2017), 291 (72%) HHD patients were transplanted (n=255 within the first 5 years) and 37 (9%) were permanently transferred to another dialysis modality. Graft failure occurred in 671 (9%) transplant recipients. Mortality occurred in 666 patients for a total of 37,252 years at risk (mortality incidence 10 per 1000 patient-years for HHD patients vs. 11, 19 and 32 per 1000 patient-years for LD, SCD and ECD recipients, respectively). Kaplan-Meier unadjusted survival curves comparing HHD patients to transplant recipients are shown in Supplemental Figure S1A. Using multivariable Cox regression, the adjusted HR for mortality compared to HHD patients were 0.90 (95%CI 0.48-1.66), 1.02 (95%CI 0.55-1.90) and 1.54 (95%CI 0.83-2.87) for LD, SCD and ECD recipients, respectively (Supplemental Table S5). None of the survival differences were statistically significant. Results from the PS matched cohorts are presented in Supplemental Tables S5-S6.

For the secondary outcome of time-to-treatment failure or death (Supplemental Figure S1B; Supplemental Table S7), LD and SCD recipients showed a cumulative survival advantage compared to HHD (adjusted HR 0.53, 95%CI 0.39-0.72 and 0.55, 95%CI 0.40-0.75, respectively) but the survival benefit was not statistically significant for ECD recipients (HR 0.93, 95%CI 0.68-1.27).

## DISCUSSION

In this Australia and New Zealand registry study, LD and SCD recipients had lower mortality compared to HHD patients, which remained significant after adjustment for patients'

characteristics. In contrast, ECD recipients had similar mortality compared to HHD patients. These findings were robust across a variety of statistical methodologies and sensitivity analyses.

In keeping with previous studies comparing survival between HHD patients and kidney transplant recipients,(122,124,125,127) the current study reported better outcomes in LD and SCD recipients compared to HHD patients but comparable survival between ECD recipients and HHD patients. This finding for ECD recipients is similar to a previous study that showed comparable survival between American deceased donor kidney transplant recipients and Canadian nocturnal HHD patients.(122) Nevertheless, this study compared two different populations whilst the present study reports outcomes for both cohorts within the same registry.

In 2014, a large single-center Canadian study(124) showed that kidney transplantation was associated with superior composite outcome of treatment or patient survival compared to intensive HHD, independent of donor subtypes and age. No clear gradation of effect comparing LD, SCD, and ECD recipients to HHD patients was found, which differs from contemporary national data reporting better survival for LD recipients compared to deceased donor recipients.(128) Moreover, the comparable survival in ECD recipients and HHD patients reported in the present study may differ from previous reports because of greater comparability in baseline characteristics between ECD recipients and HHD patients, possibly because of higher HHD utilization rates and therefore less restrictive selection practices. In contrast, disparities in age and comorbidities (mainly diabetes and non-skin cancer) were more prominent between HHD patients and ECD recipients in the Canadian study(124) than across the same cohorts in our study. Moreover, because of its smaller sample size and number of events, the Canadian study examined a composite outcome rather than mortality alone. It should also be noted that this Canadian study compared intensive HHD ( $\geq 16$  hours/week) to transplantation, whereas the present study included all HHD weekly durations, with 35% of HHD patients on intensive regimens.

In a more recent study by Molnar *et al.*,(125) a four times higher mortality was shown in American HHD patients compared to kidney recipients, regardless of donor type. The major discrepancy between our findings and this study might be explained by the lower overall mortality rate in HHD

patients in Australia and New Zealand (30/1000 patient-years present study; 47/1000 patient-years in a previous study(129)) compared to the United States (110(130) to 145(125)/1000 patient-years) whilst reported transplant survival rates are comparable across the countries.(125)(131) It is also important to note the extensive use of NxStage HHD technology in the United States,(130) which provides lower solute clearance than conventional HD machines used in Canada, Australia and New Zealand. This technology is rarely used in HHD in Australia and New Zealand where HHD units have protocols for water treatment and testing following the International Organization for Standardization guidelines.

The demonstration of an important survival benefit in LD and SCD recipients compared to HHD patients warrants the need to advocate for kidney transplantation in eligible patients. However, it should be noted that HHD patient survival in the present study was very high (on-treatment five-year survival 85%), such that this modality should be considered as a suitable bridging KRT while awaiting transplantation. The five-year survival shown is in line with previous reports from some Canadian (80<sup>5</sup>-85%<sup>3</sup>) and Australian (85-87%(51)) cohorts. Excellent five-year survival (91(132) to 98%(133)) was also reported in recent Swedish registry (n=152) and matched cohort (n=82) studies comparing HHD to institutional HD.

In the additional analyses of the subset of Australian patients deemed eligible for transplant, HHD showed comparable survival to transplantation, regardless of donor subtypes. However, benefit from LD and SCD transplantation compared to HHD was significant for the composite of time-to-treatment failure or death as a secondary outcome but not statistically significant for ECD recipients. On the contrary, in adjusted analyses excluding HHD patients with a known contraindication to transplantation, Tennankore *et al.*(124) reported a significant benefit of transplantation from all kidney donor subtypes compared to HHD for the composite of patient and treatment survival. Furthermore, in the present study, excellent 1- and 5-year on-treatment survival was shown in the subset of HHD patients eligible for transplant (100% and 94%, respectively, vs. 98% and 92% in transplant recipients). These reports should be interpreted with caution as a very high proportion of HHD patients (63%) from this cohort were transplanted within

five years of HHD initiation and median follow-up times between cohorts varied widely (2.3 [IQR 1.1-3.7] years in HHD patients vs. 5.4 [2.5-8.5], 4.0 [1.6-6.9] and 3.3 [1.4-6.2] in LD, SCD and ECD recipients, respectively). This study also supports potentially comparable outcomes of HHD and ECD transplantation for patients who are marginal transplant candidates (e.g. older patients with comorbidities) who often receive ECD kidneys.

Many studies,(134–136) including a systematic review,(137) have reported worse outcomes in ECD compared to SCD recipients. Therefore, it has been suggested that ECD kidneys should be offered principally to older patients in organ procurement organizations with otherwise long waiting times.(134,135) Similar to previous findings reported in a study comparing mortality after ECD kidney transplantation vs a combined group of non-ECD recipients and those still receiving dialysis,(134) results from our study suggest that transplantation may not confer a survival benefit compared to HHD if the patient receives an ECD kidney. Nonetheless, ECD transplantation was associated with superior time-to-treatment failure or death compared to HHD, in keeping with the findings of the Canadian study(124). Therefore, it would also be essential to evaluate other patient-important outcomes, such as quality of life or life participation, when considering an ECD kidney transplant in HHD patients. Unfortunately, none of these outcomes were measured by the ANZDATA registry during the study period.

This bi-national registry study comprehensively compared survival between HHD patients and kidney transplant recipients in Australia and New Zealand where HHD utilization is high. Other strengths of this study include its large sample size (n=15,563), long follow-up duration (total 96,899 patient-years), consistency of results across a variety of different statistical analyses, and sufficient event numbers to enable assessment of mortality.

Some limitations of this study should still be considered, including limited depth of data collection and the potential for coding bias. Due to the missingness of data, patients' socioeconomic positions and remoteness of residence could not be evaluated as potential confounders. Although adjustment was made for many potential confounding factors, the possibility of indication bias

with residual confounding could not be excluded. Due to the availability of data provided by ANZDATA, deceased donor transplant recipients were classified on the binary criteria of ECD/SCD donors rather than the continuous Kidney Donor Profile Index (KDPI) to assess donor quality which is now widely used in transplantation. The inclusion of incident HHD patients on this modality at 90 days after KRT initiation might also have limited the size of the HHD cohort and contributed to larger discrepancies in dialysis vintage between groups. The shorter dialysis vintage of the HHD group may have potentially led to overestimation of the relative survival of this modality compared to transplant. To account for this, various strategies (such as adjusting for dialysis vintage, PS matching including dialysis vintage and restricting analyses to patients with short dialysis vintage) were pursued with consistent results. Furthermore, the high rates of transplantation in the HHD cohort contributed to shorter follow-up times and lower numbers of patients at risk over time, thereby potentially leading to informative censoring bias. Additional analyses in the subset of Australian patients eligible for transplantation were carried out to partially address this bias. Immortal time bias also cannot be excluded, as transplant recipients had to survive on dialysis before receiving a transplant, whereas the exposure time of the HHD group started upon dialysis commencement leading to potential overestimation of survival benefits for transplantation. Finally, due to the high utilization of HHD and the excellent survival reported in patients on this modality in both Australia and New Zealand, the results from this study might not be generalizable to other populations.

In conclusion, this large registry study showed that HHD was associated with comparable survival to ECD kidney transplantation, but lower survival than either LD and SCD kidney transplantation. These results support the use of HHD for marginal transplant candidates who often receive ECD kidneys, as it could possibly be an equivalent alternative to kidney transplant in terms of survival depending on the donor subtype, while other patient relevant outcomes, such as quality of life, should still be considered.



## Article 3 – Tables and Figures

**Table 1.** Baseline patient characteristics of the complete cohorts.

| Characteristics                                | HHD           | TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS |                  |                  | p-value |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
|  |               | LD                    | SCD              | ECD              |         |
| <b>N=</b>                                      | <b>1411</b>   | <b>4960</b>           | <b>6019</b>      | <b>2427</b>      |         |
| <b>Time from start of study period (years)</b> | 13 (6-17)     | 12 (7-16)             | 13 (6-17)        | 15 (9-18)        | <0.001  |
| <b>Age at cohort entry (years)</b>             | 50 (42-59)    | 46 (33-56)            | 51 (41-60)       | 55 (46-63)       | <0.001  |
| <b>Male sex</b>                                | 1052 (75%)    | 3052 (62%)            | 3733 (62%)       | 1570 (65%)       | <0.001  |
| <b>Primary kidney disease</b>                  |               |                       |                  |                  | <0.001  |
| Diabetic nephropathy                           | 304 (22%)     | 401 (8%)              | 803 (13%)        | 379 (16%)        |         |
| Glomerulonephritis                             | 507 (36%)     | 2302 (46%)            | 2667 (44%)       | 985 (41%)        |         |
| Reflux nephropathy                             | 71 (5%)       | 506 (10%)             | 416 (7%)         | 153 (6%)         |         |
| Polycystic disease                             | 246 (17%)     | 758 (15%)             | 851 (14%)        | 353 (15%)        |         |
| Hypertension                                   | 93 (7%)       | 237 (5%)              | 374 (6%)         | 211 (9%)         |         |
| Other  | 136 (10%)     | 498 (10%)             | 605 (10%)        | 234 (10%)        |         |
| Uncertain                                      | 42 (3%)       | 194 (4%)              | 283 (5%)         | 107 (4%)         |         |
| Not reported                                   | 12 (1%)       | 64 (1%)               | 20 (0%)          | 5 (0%)           |         |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>                               |               |                       |                  |                  | <0.001  |
| Caucasian                                      | 1063 (75%)    | 4063 (82%)            | 4430 (74%)       | 1754 (72%)       |         |
| ATSI   | 36 (3%)       | 49 (1%)               | 293 (5%)         | 120 (5%)         |         |
| Asian  | 98 (7%)       | 433 (9%)              | 712 (12%)        | 347 (14%)        |         |
| Māori  | 85 (6%)       | 127 (3%)              | 179 (3%)         | 53 (2%)          |         |
| Pacific Islander                               | 80 (6%)       | 135 (3%)              | 221 (4%)         | 73 (3%)          |         |
| Other  | 36 (3%)       | 66 (1%)               | 143 (2%)         | 69 (3%)          |         |
| Not reported                                   | 13 (1%)       | 87 (2%)               | 41 (1%)          | 11 (0%)          |         |
| <b>Country at cohort entry</b>                 |               |                       |                  |                  | <0.001  |
| Australia                                      | 1109 (79%)    | 4049 (82%)            | 5161 (86%)       | 2211 (91%)       |         |
| New Zealand                                    | 302 (21%)     | 911 (18%)             | 858 (14%)        | 216 (9%)         |         |
| <b>Late referral<sup>a</sup></b>               | 79 (6%)       | 653 (13%)             | 1116 (19%)       | 461 (19%)        | <0.001  |
| <b>Dialysis vintage</b>                        |               |                       |                  |                  | <0.001  |
| <b>MEDIAN (months)</b>                         | 1.8 (0.8-2.4) | 7.0 (0-20.8)          | 34.8 (18.8-60.3) | 38.8 (21.0-62.6) |         |
| 0 months                                       | 224 (16%)     | 1574 (32%)            | 63 (1%)          | 18 (1%)          |         |
| >0-6 months                                    | 1187 (84%)    | 793 (16%)             | 219 (4%)         | 75 (3%)          |         |
| >6-12 months                                   | 0 (0%)        | 664 (13%)             | 537 (9%)         | 179 (7%)         |         |
| >12-24 months                                  | 0 (0%)        | 858 (17%)             | 1193 (20%)       | 452 (19%)        |         |
| >24-36 months                                  | 0 (0%)        | 458 (9%)              | 1111 (18%)       | 404 (17%)        |         |
| >36-60 months                                  | 0 (0%)        | 396 (8%)              | 1375 (23%)       | 642 (26%)        |         |
| >60 months                                     | 0 (0%)        | 217 (4%)              | 1521 (25%)       | 657 (27%)        |         |
| <b>Current smoking<sup>b</sup></b>             | 162 (12%)     | 349 (7%)              | 789 (13%)        | 283 (12%)        | <0.001  |
| <b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)<sup>c</sup></b>      |               |                       |                  |                  | <0.001  |
| <18.5  | 20 (1%)       | 192 (4%)              | 225 (4%)         | 85 (4%)          |         |
| 18.5-24.9                                      | 382 (28%)     | 2084 (43%)            | 2381 (40%)       | 902 (37%)        |         |
| 25-29.9  | 428 (31%)     | 1657 (34%)            | 1948 (33%)       | 845 (35%)        |         |
| ≥30  | 557 (40%)     | 912 (19%)             | 1393 (23%)       | 579 (24%)        |         |

|  |            |            |            |            |        |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------|
| <b>Comorbidities<sup>d</sup></b>                               |            |            |            |            |        |
| <b>Diabetes</b>  | 401 (29%)  | 600 (12%)  | 1139 (19%) | 534 (22%)  | <0.001 |
| <b>CAD</b>   | 200 (14%)  | 431 (9%)   | 431 (9%)   | 439 (18%)  | <0.001 |
| <b>PVD</b>   | 89 (6%)    | 169 (3%)   | 169 (3%)   | 182 (8%)   | <0.001 |
| <b>CVD</b>   | 47 (3%)    | 158 (3%)   | 158 (3%)   | 131 (5%)   | <0.001 |
| <b>Chronic lung disease</b>                                    | 103 (7%)   | 200 (4%)   | 637 (13%)  | 147 (6%)   | <0.001 |
| <b>Non-skin cancer ever</b>                                    | 125 (9%)   | 212 (4%)   | 200 (4%)   | 158 (7%)   | <0.001 |
| <b>Last treatment pre-transplantation</b>                      |            |            |            |            | <0.001 |
| Facility HD  |            | 1917 (39%) | 3078 (51%) | 1312 (54%) |        |
| PD   |            | 1058 (21%) | 1805 (30%) | 697 (29%)  |        |
| HHD  |            | 402 (8%)   | 1071 (18%) | 401 (17%)  |        |
| Pre-emptive transplant   |            | 1583 (32%) | 65 (1%)    | 17 (1%)    |        |
| <b>Dialysis treatment time per week (in hours)<sup>e</sup></b> | 15 (13-17) |            |            |            |        |
| Intensive ( $\geq 16$ h/week)                                  | 480 (35%)  |            |            |            |        |
| Conventional (<16h/week)                                       | 890 (65%)  |            |            |            |        |
| <b>Vascular access at dialysis initiation<sup>f</sup></b>      |            |            |            |            |        |
| AVF/AVG  | 877 (87%)  |            |            |            |        |
| Catheter   | 127 (13%)  |            |            |            |        |

Values are expressed as frequency (percentage) for categorical variables, mean  $\pm$  standard deviation for normally distributed continuous variables, and median (interquartile range) for non-normally distributed continuous variables.

AVF/AVG = arteriovenous fistula/arteriovenous graft; ATSI = Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; BMI = Body Mass Index; CAD = coronary artery disease; CVD = cerebrovascular disease; ECD = expanded criteria donor; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; HD = hemodialysis; HHD = home hemodialysis; LD = living donor; N = number; PD = peritoneal dialysis; PVD = peripheral vascular disease; SCD = standard criteria donor.

<sup>a</sup>Data on late referral were missing for 2% of patients.

<sup>b</sup>Data on smoking status were missing for 1% of patients.

<sup>c</sup>Data on BMI were missing for 1.5% of patients.

<sup>d</sup>Data on comorbidities were missing for less than 0.4% of patients.

<sup>e</sup>Data on dialysis treatment time per week were missing for 3% of HHD patients.

<sup>f</sup>Data on vascular access at dialysis initiation were missing for 29% of HHD patients.

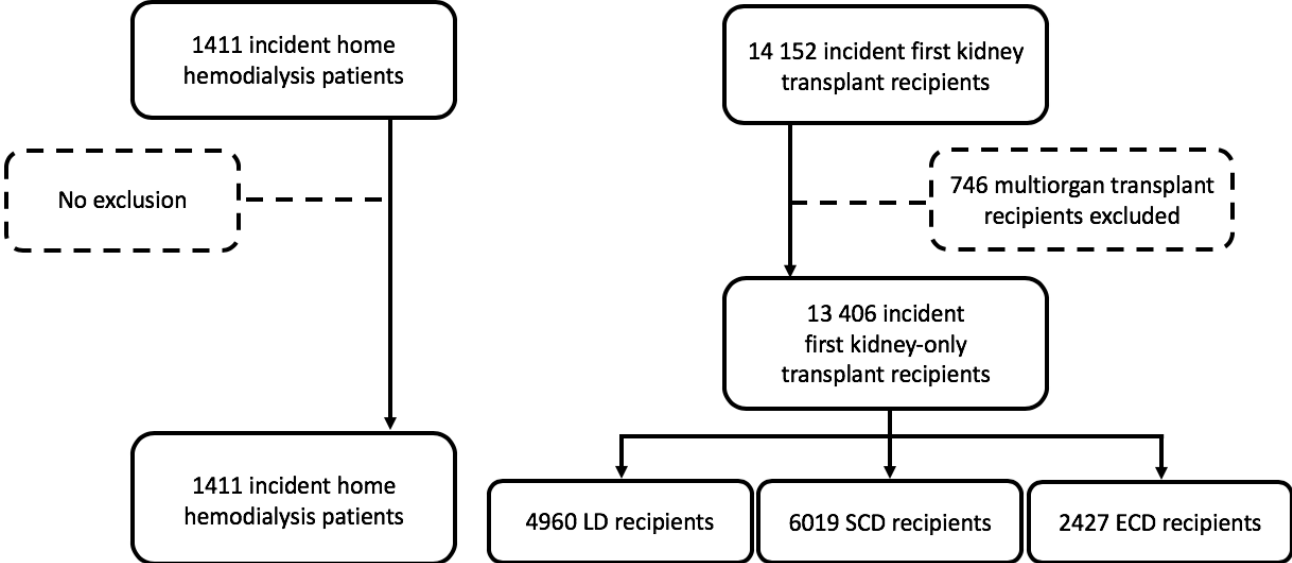
**Table 2.** Hazard ratio for time-to-treatment failure or death comparing home hemodialysis patients and kidney transplant recipients.

|  | Patients (n) | Events (n)  | HR (95%CI)       | p-value |
|--|--------------|-------------|------------------|---------|
| <b>Unadjusted</b>                            | <b>14817</b> | <b>4377</b> |                  |         |
| HHD patients                                 | 1411         | 412         | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| LD recipients                                | 4960         | 1241        | 0.30 (0.27-0.34) | <0.001  |
| SCD recipients                               | 6019         | 1849        | 0.41 (0.37-0.46) | <0.001  |
| ECD recipients                               | 2427         | 875         | 0.68 (0.61-0.77) | <0.001  |
| <b>Adjusted for patient characteristics*</b> | <b>14817</b> | <b>4377</b> |                  |         |
| HHD patients                                 | 1411         | 412         | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| LD recipients                                | 4960         | 1241        | 0.36 (0.32-0.41) | <0.001  |
| SCD recipients                               | 6019         | 1849        | 0.37 (0.33-0.42) | <0.001  |
| ECD recipients                               | 2427         | 875         | 0.60 (0.52-0.68) | <0.001  |

\*Adjusted for: sex, age, dialysis vintage, BMI, ethnicity, cause of end-stage kidney disease, country, comorbidities at cohort entry (coronary artery disease, peripheral artery disease, cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease, history of non-skin cancer) and current smoking status.

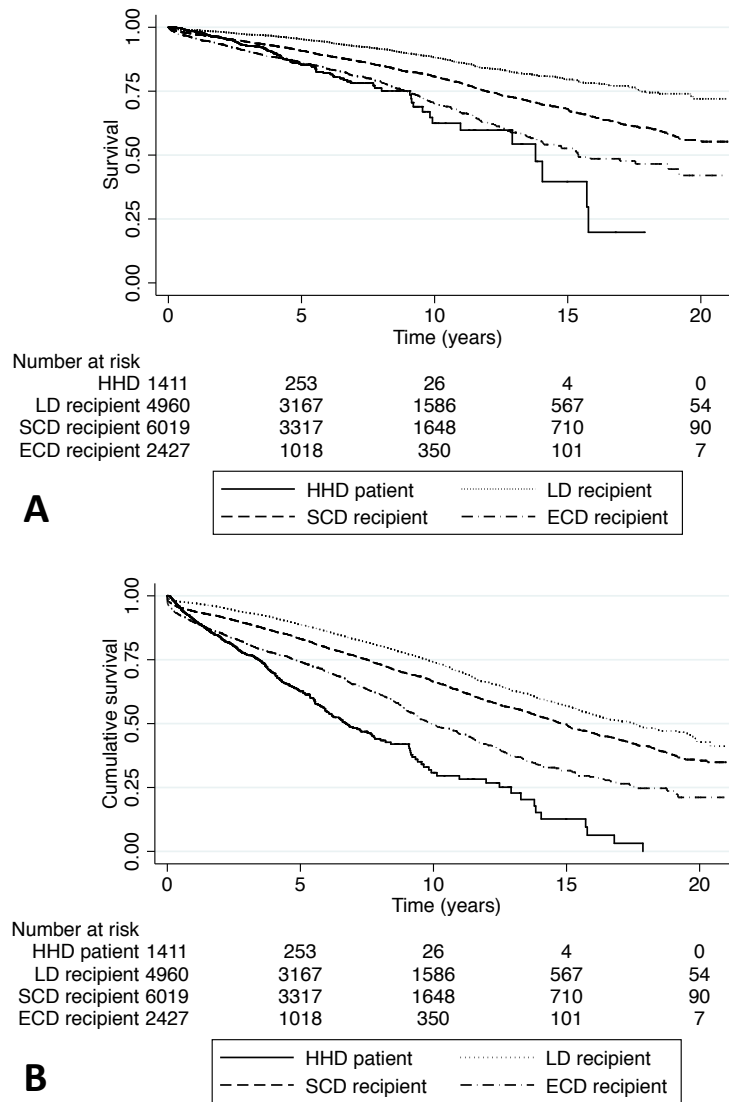
95%CI = 95% confidence interval; ECD = expanded criteria donor; HR = hazard ratio; HHD = home hemodialysis; LD = living donor; n = number; Ref = reference; SCD = standard criteria donor.

Figure 1. Study flow diagram.



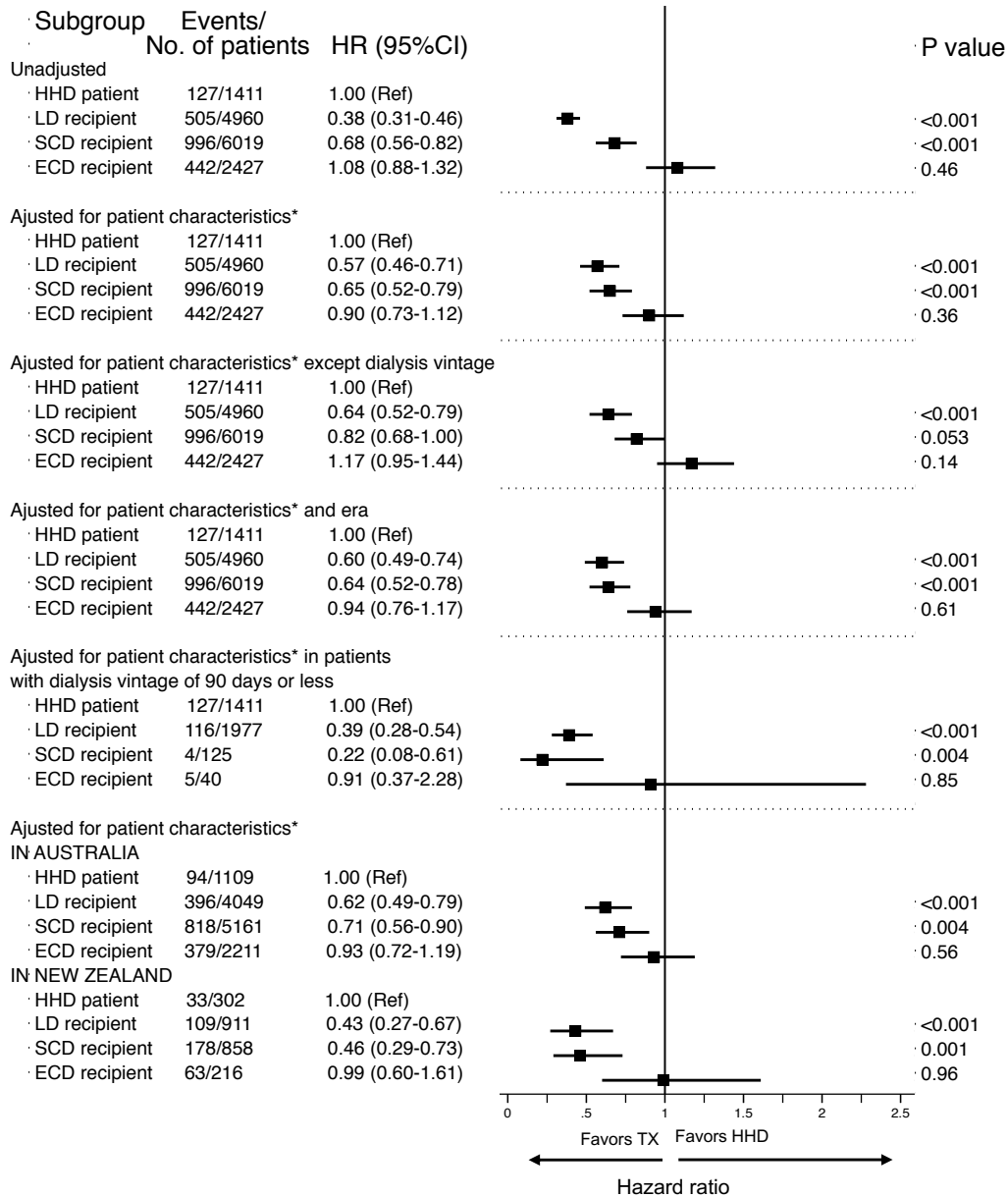
ECD = expanded criteria donor; LD = living donor; SCD = standard criteria donor.

**Figure 2.** On-treatment survival [A] and time-to-treatment failure or death [B] comparing HHD patients and kidney transplant recipient subtypes (LD, SCD and ECD), unadjusted.



On-treatment survival [A] overall log-rank, HHD vs LD log-rank, and HHD vs SCD log-rank p-values < 0.001; HHD vs ECD log-rank p-value = 0.545. Time-to-treatment failure or death [B] overall log-rank, HHD vs LD log-rank, HHD vs SCD log-rank, and HHD vs ECD log-rank p-values < 0.001. ECD = expanded criteria donor; HHD = home hemodialysis; LD = living donor; SCD = standard criteria donor.

**Figure 3.** Mortality of kidney transplant recipients compared to home hemodialysis patients.



\*Adjusted for sex, age, dialysis vintage, body mass index, ethnicity, cause of end-stage kidney disease, country, comorbidities at cohort entry (coronary artery disease, peripheral artery disease, cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease, history of non-skin cancer) and current smoking status.

## Article 3 – Supplementary data

### **Supplemental Methods. Sensitivity analyses involving propensity score matching strategies.**

Propensity score (PS) matched cohorts (1:1) were created to compare HHD patients to each subtype of kidney transplant donor (LD, SCD, ECD) using a nearest neighbor with no replacement model. Factors included in the propensity score were the same as the multivariable regression model. Two different PS were used: in the first strategy, dialysis vintage was included in the propensity score, whereas it was excluded from the second strategy. Unadjusted and adjusted Cox regression analyses were then performed to compare the matched cohorts from the two different PS matched strategies. Further adjustment included all patient characteristics with a standardized difference after matching of >10%.

### ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

In the additional analyses conducted in the cohort including only patients deemed eligible for a kidney transplant during the study period, PS matched cohorts (1:1) were also created to compare HHD patients to kidney transplant recipients (all subtypes combined) using a nearest neighbor with no replacement model, using the same PS and Cox regression models than the main analyses.

### **Supplemental Results. Sensitivity analyses involving propensity score matching strategies.**

Cox regression analyses in the PS matched cohorts are outlined in Supplementary Table 1.

The first PS matching strategy, in which dialysis vintage was included, resulted in poor matching in respect to the other variables evaluated and included fewer patients for comparisons between HHD patients and recipients from cohorts with longer median dialysis vintage (HHD vs SCD; HHD vs ECD). After adjustment for baseline characteristics with standardized differences after matching of >10% was carried out, results were comparable to the analysis restricted to patients with a dialysis vintage of 90 days or less in all groups (HHD vs LD; HHD vs SCD; HHD vs ECD). When dialysis vintage was not included in the propensity score (second PS matching strategy), the matched cohorts were larger and the results for all groups compared were similar to the main adjusted analysis previously described. Baseline characteristics of the PS matched cohorts of HHD patients and ECD recipients are presented in Supplementary Tables S2 and S3.



**Table S1.** Hazard ratio for mortality comparing propensity score matched cohorts of home hemodialysis patients and kidney transplant recipient subtypes.

| Model   | Patients (n) | Events (n) | HR (95% CI)      | p-value |
|---|--------------|------------|------------------|---------|
| <b>PSM<sup>1</sup> cohort of HHD patients and LD recipients</b>   |              |            |                  |         |
| <b>Unadjusted</b>   | <b>2762</b>  | <b>244</b> |                  |         |
| HHD patients  | 1381         | 120        | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| LD recipients   | 1381         | 124        | 0.29 (0.22-0.38) | <0.001  |
| <b>Adjusted for patient characteristics with standardized difference after matching &gt;10%<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>2762</b>  | <b>244</b> |                  |         |
| HHD patients  | 1381         | 120        | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| LD recipients   | 1381         | 124        | 0.39 (0.29-0.52) | <0.001  |
| <b>PSM<sup>1</sup> cohort of HHD patients and SCD recipients</b>  |              |            |                  |         |
| <b>Unadjusted</b>   | <b>374</b>   | <b>38</b>  |                  |         |
| HHD patients  | 187          | 25         | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| SCD recipients  | 187          | 13         | 0.13 (0.06-0.29) | <0.001  |
| <b>Adjusted for patient characteristics with standardized difference after matching &gt;10%<sup>c</sup></b> | <b>374</b>   | <b>38</b>  |                  |         |
| HHD patients  | 187          | 25         | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| SCD recipients  | 187          | 13         | 0.35 (0.16-0.80) | 0.012   |
| <b>PSM<sup>1</sup> cohort of HHD patients and ECD recipients</b>  |              |            |                  |         |
| <b>Unadjusted</b>   | <b>124</b>   | <b>12</b>  |                  |         |
| HHD patients  | 62           | 6          | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| ECD recipients  | 62           | 6          | 0.48 (0.14-1.61) | 0.236   |
| <b>Adjusted for patient characteristics with standardized difference after matching &gt;10%<sup>e</sup></b> | <b>124</b>   | <b>12</b>  |                  |         |
| HHD patients  | 62           | 6          | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| ECD recipients  | 62           | 6          | 0.88 (0.23-3.35) | 0.854   |
| <b>Alternative PSM<sup>2</sup> cohort of HHD patients and LD recipients</b>                                 |              |            |                  |         |
| <b>Unadjusted</b>   | <b>2762</b>  | <b>352</b> |                  |         |
| HHD patients  | 1381         | 120        | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| LD recipients   | 1381         | 232        | 0.66 (0.52-0.83) | 0.001   |
| <b>Adjusted for patient characteristics with standardized difference after matching &gt;10%<sup>b</sup></b> | <b>2762</b>  | <b>352</b> |                  |         |
| HHD patients  | 1381         | 120        | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| LD recipients   | 1381         | 232        | 0.52 (0.40-0.67) | <0.001  |
| <b>Alternative PSM<sup>2</sup> cohort of HHD patients and SCD recipients</b>                                |              |            |                  |         |
| <b>Unadjusted</b>   | <b>2762</b>  | <b>335</b> |                  |         |
| HHD patients  | 1381         | 120        | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| SCD recipients  | 1381         | 215        | 0.69 (0.55-0.88) | 0.003   |
| <b>Adjusted for patient characteristics with standardized difference after matching &gt;10%<sup>d</sup></b> | <b>2762</b>  | <b>335</b> |                  |         |
| HHD patients  | 1381         | 120        | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| SCD recipients  | 1381         | 215        | 0.54 (0.39-0.74) | <0.001  |

| <b>Alternative PSM<sup>2</sup> cohort of HHD patients and ECD recipients</b>                                |             |            |                  |       |
|---|-------------|------------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Unadjusted</b>   | <b>2762</b> | <b>342</b> |                  |       |
| HHD patients  | 1381        | 120        | 1.00 (Ref)       |       |
| ECD recipients  | 1381        | 222        | 0.91 (0.72-1.15) | 0.416 |
| <b>Adjusted for patient characteristics with standardized difference after matching &gt;10%<sup>f</sup></b> | <b>2762</b> | <b>342</b> |                  |       |
| HHD patients  | 1381        | 120        | 1.00 (Ref)       |       |
| ECD recipients  | 1381        | 222        | 0.79 (0.58-1.06) | 0.113 |

(1) Matched for sex, age, dialysis vintage, body mass index, ethnicity, cause of end-stage kidney disease, country, comorbidities at cohort entry (coronary artery disease, peripheral artery disease, cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease, history of non-skin cancer) and current smoking status.

(2) Matched for same factors as in [1] except dialysis vintage.

<sup>a</sup>Adjusted for ethnicity, diabetes, coronary artery disease, peripheral artery disease, chronic lung disease, history of non-skin cancer, current smoking status and body mass index.

<sup>b</sup>Adjusted for age, dialysis vintage, sex, diabetes and body mass index.

<sup>c</sup>Adjusted for age, ethnicity, cerebrovascular disease, history of non-skin cancer and country.

<sup>d</sup>Adjusted for dialysis vintage, sex, diabetes, history of non-skin cancer, body mass index and country.

<sup>e</sup>Adjusted for sex, ethnicity, cause of end-stage kidney disease, country, comorbidities at cohort entry (coronary artery disease, cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease) and current smoking status.

<sup>f</sup>Adjusted for dialysis vintage, ethnicity and country.

95%CI = 95% confidence interval; ECD = expanded criteria donor; HR = hazard ratio; HHD = home hemodialysis; LD = living donor; No. = number; PSM = propensity score matched; Ref = reference; SCD = standard criteria donor.

**Table S2.** Baseline patient characteristics of propensity score matched (1) cohorts of home hemodialysis patients and expanded criteria donor recipients, and absolute standardized differences in percentage between cohorts before and after matching.

| Characteristics<br>n=                          | HHD patients<br>62 | ECD recipients<br>62 | p-value | Absolute standardized<br>% differences |                   |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|---------|--|-------------------|
|  |                    |                      |         | Before<br>matching                     | After<br>matching |
| <b>Time from start of study period (years)</b> | 12 (5-18)          | 16 (11-19)           | 0.005   |  |                   |
| <b>Age at cohort entry (years)</b>             | 52 (44-59)         | 51 (44-60)           | 0.968   | 27.9                                   | 1.3               |
| <b>Male sex</b>                                | 36 (58%)           | 39 (63%)             | 0.582   | 22.2                                   | 10.6              |
| <b>Primary kidney disease</b>                  |                    |                      | 0.441   | 6.3                                    | 28.8              |
| Diabetic nephropathy                           | 8 (13%)            | 5 (8%)               |         |  |                   |
| Glomerulonephritis                             | 14 (23%)           | 26 (42%)             |         |  |                   |
| Reflux nephropathy                             | 3 (5%)             | 4 (6%)               |         |  |                   |
| Polycystic disease                             | 14 (23%)           | 12 (19%)             |         |  |                   |
| Hypertension                                   | 4 (6%)             | 4 (6%)               |         |  |                   |
| Other  | 16 (26%)           | 9 (15%)              |         |  |                   |
| Uncertain                                      | 2 (3%)             | 1 (2%)               |         |  |                   |
| Not reported                                   | 1 (2%)             | 1 (2%)               |         |  |                   |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>                               |                    |                      | 0.860   | 3.3                                    | 13.1              |
| Caucasian                                      | 48 (77%)           | 51 (82%)             |         |  |                   |
| ATSI   | 3 (5%)             | 2 (3%)               |         |  |                   |
| Asian  | 4 (6%)             | 3 (5%)               |         |  |                   |
| Māori  | 0 (0%)             | 1 (2%)               |         |  |                   |
| Pacific Islander                               | 2 (3%)             | 2 (3%)               |         |  |                   |
| Other  | 4 (6%)             | 3 (5%)               |         |  |                   |
| Not reported                                   | 1 (2%)             | 0 (0%)               |         |  |                   |
| <b>Country at cohort entry</b>                 |                    |                      | 0.542   | 36.2                                   | 13.7              |
| Australia                                      | 44 (71%)           | 47 (76%)             |         |  |                   |
| New Zealand                                    | 18 (29%)           | 15 (24%)             |         |  |                   |
| <b>Late referral<sup>a</sup></b>               | 2 (3%)             | 3 (5%)               | 0.635   |  |                   |
| <b>Dialysis vintage</b>                        |                    |                      | 0.220   | 198.8                                  | 0.8               |
| MEDIAN (months)                                | 2.6 (1.6-2.8)      | 2.7 (0-4.0)          |         |  |                   |
| 0 months                                       | 5 (8%)             | 16 (26%)             |         |  |                   |
| >0-6 months                                    | 57 (92%)           | 46 (74%)             |         |  |                   |
| <b>Current smoking</b>                         | 6 (10%)            | 3 (5%)               | 0.299   | 0.3                                    | 15.0              |
| <b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>                  |                    |                      | 0.958   | 35.9                                   | 1.9               |
| <18.5  | 1 (2%)             | 1 (2%)               |         |  |                   |
| 18.5-24.9                                      | 15 (24%)           | 16 (26%)             |         |  |                   |
| 25-29.9  | 32 (52%)           | 29 (47%)             |         |  |                   |
| ≥30  | 14 (23%)           | 16 (26%)             |         |  |                   |
| <b>Comorbidities</b>                           |                    |                      |         |  |                   |
| <b>Diabetes</b>                                | 14 (23%)           | 11 (18%)             | 0.502   | 14.6                                   | 11.2              |
| <b>CAD</b>                                     | 7 (11%)            | 4 (6%)               | 0.343   | 10.9                                   | 13.1              |
| <b>PVD</b>                                     | 2 (3%)             | 1 (2%)               | 0.559   | 5.0                                    | 6.3               |
| <b>CVD</b>                                     | 6 (10%)            | 2 (3%)               | 0.144   | 10.3                                   | 31.5              |
| <b>Chronic lung disease</b>                    | 5 (8%)             | 1 (2%)               | 0.094   | 4.4                                    | 25.9              |

|  |            |          |       |     |     |
|--|------------|----------|-------|-----|-----|
| <b>Non-skin cancer ever</b>                                    | 2 (3%)     | 3 (5%)   | 0.648 | 9.2 | 6.1 |
| <b>Last treatment pre-transplantation</b>                      |            |          |       |     |     |
| Facility HD  |            | 22 (35%) |       |     |     |
| PD   |            | 25 (40%) |       |     |     |
| HHD  |            | 0 (0%)   |       |     |     |
| Pre-emptive transplant   |            | 15 (25%) |       |     |     |
| <b>Dialysis treatment time per week (in hours)<sup>b</sup></b> | 15 (12-15) |          |       |     |     |
| Intensive ( $\geq 16$ h/week)                                  | 14 (23%)   |          |       |     |     |
| Conventional ( $<16$ h/week)                                   | 46 (77%)   |          |       |     |     |

(1) Matched for sex, age, dialysis vintage, BMI, ethnicity, cause of end-stage kidney disease, country, comorbidities at cohort entry (coronary artery disease, peripheral artery disease, cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease, history of non-skin cancer) and current smoking status.

Values are expressed as frequency (percentage) for categorical variables, mean  $\pm$  standard deviation for normally distributed continuous variables, and median (interquartile range) for non-normally distributed continuous variables.

ATSI = Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; BMI = Body Mass Index; CAD = coronary artery disease; CVD = cerebrovascular disease; ECD = expanded criteria donor; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; HD = hemodialysis; HHD = home hemodialysis; LD = living donor; n = number; PD = peritoneal dialysis; PVD = peripheral vascular disease; SCD = standard criteria donor.

<sup>a</sup>Data on late referral were missing for 1% of patients.

<sup>b</sup>Data on dialysis treatment time per week were missing for 3% of HHD patients.

**Table S3.** Baseline patient characteristics of propensity score matched (2) (excluding dialysis vintage) cohorts of home hemodialysis patients and expanded criteria donor recipients, and absolute standardized differences in percentage between cohorts before and after matching.

| Characteristics<br>n=                          | HHD patients<br>1381 | ECD recipients<br>1381 | p-value | Absolute standardized<br>% differences |                   |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|---------|--|-------------------|
|  |                      |                        |         | Before<br>matching                     | After<br>matching |
| <b>Time from start of study period (years)</b> | 13 (6-17)            | 15 (9-18)              | <0.001  |  |                   |
| <b>Age at cohort entry (years)</b>             | 50 (42-59)           | 52 (42-59)             | 0.189   | 27.9                                   | 0.9               |
| <b>Male sex</b>                                | 1034 (75%)           | 1056 (76%)             | 0.329   | 22.2                                   | 3.5               |
| <b>Primary kidney disease</b>                  |                      |                        | 0.882   | 6.3                                    | 3.9               |
| Diabetic nephropathy                           | 297 (22%)            | 266 (19%)              |         |  |                   |
| Glomerulonephritis                             | 500 (36%)            | 506 (37%)              |         |  |                   |
| Reflux nephropathy                             | 70 (5%)              | 78 (6%)                |         |  |                   |
| Polycystic disease                             | 243 (18%)            | 259 (19%)              |         |  |                   |
| Hypertension                                   | 92 (7%)              | 90 (7%)                |         |  |                   |
| Other  | 134 (10%)            | 140 (10%)              |         |  |                   |
| Uncertain                                      | 41 (3%)              | 39 (3%)                |         |  |                   |
| Not reported                                   | 4 (0%)               | 3 (0%)                 |         |  |                   |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>                               |                      |                        | <0.001  | 3.3                                    | 14.8              |
| Caucasian                                      | 1047 (76%)           | 1150 (83%)             |         |  |                   |
| ATSI   | 33 (2%)              | 25 (2%)                |         |  |                   |
| Asian  | 98 (7%)              | 60 (4%)                |         |  |                   |
| Māori  | 82 (6%)              | 48 (3%)                |         |  |                   |
| Pacific Islander                               | 80 (6%)              | 57 (4%)                |         |  |                   |
| Other  | 34 (2%)              | 34 (2%)                |         |  |                   |
| Not reported                                   | 7 (1%)               | 7 (1%)                 |         |  |                   |
| <b>Country at cohort entry</b>                 |                      |                        | <0.001  | 36.2                                   | 19.4              |
| Australia                                      | 1082 (78%)           | 1177 (85%)             |         |  |                   |
| New Zealand                                    | 299 (22%)            | 204 (15%)              |         |  |                   |
| <b>Late referral<sup>a</sup></b>               | 77 (6%)              | 275 (20%)              | <0.001  |  |                   |
| <b>Dialysis vintage</b>                        |                      |                        | <0.001  |  |                   |
| MEDIAN (months)                                | 1.9 (0.9-2.4)        | 37.1 (19.6-58.6)       |         |  |                   |
| 0 months                                       | 209 (15%)            | 14 (1%)                |         |  |                   |
| >0-6 months                                    | 1172 (85%)           | 53 (4%)                |         |  |                   |
| >6-12 months                                   | 0 (0%)               | 109 (8%)               |         |  |                   |
| >12-24 months                                  | 0 (0%)               | 277 (20%)              |         |  |                   |
| >24-36 months                                  | 0 (0%)               | 218 (16%)              |         |  |                   |
| >36-60 months                                  | 0 (0%)               | 379 (27%)              |         |  |                   |
| >60 months                                     | 0 (0%)               | 331 (24%)              |         |  |                   |
| <b>Current smoking</b>                         | 161 (12%)            | 171 (12%)              | 0.558   | 0.3                                    | 2.3               |
| <b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>                  |                      |                        | 0.192   | 35.9                                   | 3.9               |
| <18.5  | 20 (1%)              | 16 (1%)                |         |  |                   |
| 18.5-24.9                                      | 379 (27%)            | 386 (28%)              |         |  |                   |
| 25-29.9  | 426 (31%)            | 470 (34%)              |         |  |                   |
| ≥30  | 556 (40%)            | 509 (37%)              |         |  |                   |

|  |            |           |       |      |     |
|--|------------|-----------|-------|------|-----|
| <b>Comorbidities</b>   |            |           |       |      |     |
| <b>Diabetes</b>  | 391 (28%)  | 353 (26%) | 0.103 | 14.6 | 6.4 |
| <b>CAD</b>   | 196 (14%)  | 206 (15%) | 0.589 | 10.9 | 2.0 |
| <b>PVD</b>   | 87 (6%)    | 98 (7%)   | 0.402 | 5.0  | 3.1 |
| <b>CVD</b>   | 46 (3%)    | 45 (3%)   | 0.915 | 10.3 | 0.4 |
| <b>Chronic lung disease</b>                                    | 99 (7%)    | 91 (7%)   | 0.548 | 4.4  | 2.3 |
| <b>Non-skin cancer ever</b>                                    | 122 (9%)   | 119 (9%)  | 0.840 | 9.2  | 0.8 |
| <b>Last treatment pre-transplantation</b>                      |            |           |       |      |     |
| Facility HD  |            | 742 (54%) |       |      |     |
| PD   |            | 359 (26%) |       |      |     |
| HHD  |            | 267 (19%) |       |      |     |
| Pre-emptive transplant   |            | 13 (1%)   |       |      |     |
| <b>Dialysis treatment time per week (in hours)<sup>b</sup></b> | 15 (13-17) |           |       |      |     |
| Intensive ( $\geq 16$ h/week)                                  | 471 (35%)  |           |       |      |     |
| Conventional ( $<16$ h/week)                                   | 877 (65%)  |           |       |      |     |

(2) Matched for sex, age, BMI, ethnicity, cause of end-stage kidney disease, country, comorbidities at cohort entry (coronary artery disease, peripheral artery disease, cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease, history of non-skin cancer) and current smoking status. Values are expressed as frequency (percentage) for categorical variables, mean  $\pm$  standard deviation for normally distributed continuous variables, and median (interquartile range) for non-normally distributed continuous variables.

ATSI = Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; BMI = Body Mass Index; CAD = coronary artery disease; CVD = cerebrovascular disease; ECD = expanded criteria donor; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; HD = hemodialysis; HHD = home hemodialysis; LD = living donor; n = number; PD = peritoneal dialysis; PVD = peripheral vascular disease; SCD = standard criteria donor.

<sup>a</sup>Data on late referral were missing for less than 1% of patients.

<sup>b</sup>Data on dialysis treatment time per week were missing for 2% of HHD patients.

**Table S4.** Baseline patient characteristics of the Australian subcohort of home hemodialysis patients eligible for transplantation and kidney transplant recipients who entered the cohort between 2006 and 2017.

| Characteristics                                | HHD           | TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS |                  |                  | p-value |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
|  |               | LD                    | SCD              | ECD              |         |
| n=   | 404           | 2615                  | 3340             | 1718             |         |
| <b>Time from start of study period (years)</b> | 15 (12-18)    | 14 (12-18)            | 16 (13-19)       | 16 (13-19)       | <0.001  |
| <b>Age at cohort entry (years)</b>             | 50 (42-56)    | 48 (35-58)            | 52 (42-61)       | 57 (48-63)       | <0.001  |
| <b>Male sex</b>                                | 313 (77%)     | 1642 (63%)            | 2080 (62%)       | 1109 (65%)       | <0.001  |
| <b>Primary kidney disease</b>                  |               |                       |                  |                  | <0.001  |
| Diabetic nephropathy                           | 52 (13%)      | 207 (8%)              | 504 (15%)        | 299 (17%)        |         |
| Glomerulonephritis                             | 155 (38%)     | 1145 (44%)            | 1375 (41%)       | 635 (37%)        |         |
| Reflux nephropathy                             | 22 (5%)       | 233 (9%)              | 214 (6%)         | 99 (6%)          |         |
| Polycystic disease                             | 97 (24%)      | 461 (18%)             | 483 (14%)        | 262 (15%)        |         |
| Hypertension                                   | 31 (8%)       | 138 (5%)              | 237 (7%)         | 173 (10%)        |         |
| Other  | 34 (8%)       | 267 (10%)             | 348 (10%)        | 165 (10%)        |         |
| Uncertain                                      | 10 (2%)       | 104 (4%)              | 161 (5%)         | 80 (5%)          |         |
| Not reported                                   | 3 (1%)        | 60 (2%)               | 18 (1%)          | 5 (0%)           |         |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>                               |               |                       |                  |                  | <0.001  |
| Caucasian                                      | 334 (83%)     | 2166 (83%)            | 2434 (73%)       | 1232 (72%)       |         |
| ATSI   | 0 (0%)        | 28 (1%)               | 181 (5%)         | 92 (5%)          |         |
| Asian  | 42 (10%)      | 242 (9%)              | 451 (14%)        | 274 (16%)        |         |
| Māori  | 4 (1%)        | 15 (1%)               | 28 (1%)          | 17 (1%)          |         |
| Pacific Islander                               | 7 (2%)        | 37 (1%)               | 94 (3%)          | 35 (2%)          |         |
| Other  | 13 (3%)       | 44 (2%)               | 116 (3%)         | 58 (3%)          |         |
| Not reported                                   | 4 (1%)        | 83 (3%)               | 36 (1%)          | 10 (1%)          |         |
| <b>Late referral<sup>a</sup></b>               | 23 (6%)       | 317 (12%)             | 670 (20%)        | 326 (19%)        | <0.001  |
| <b>Dialysis vintage</b>                        |               |                       |                  |                  | <0.001  |
| <b>MEDIAN (months)</b>                         | 1.8 (0.6-2.4) | 5.2 (0-17.9)          | 35.3 (19.3-60.4) | 38.8 (21.0-62.0) |         |
| 0 months                                       | 75 (19%)      | 968 (37%)             | 17 (1%)          | 8 (0%)           |         |
| >0-6 months                                    | 329 (81%)     | 394 (15%)             | 122 (4%)         | 54 (3%)          |         |
| >6-12 months                                   | 0 (0%)        | 348 (13%)             | 308 (9%)         | 131 (8%)         |         |
| >12-24 months                                  | 0 (0%)        | 418 (16%)             | 639 (19%)        | 320 (19%)        |         |
| >24-36 months                                  | 0 (0%)        | 230 (9%)              | 618 (19%)        | 281 (16%)        |         |
| >36-60 months                                  | 0 (0%)        | 166 (6%)              | 785 (24%)        | 468 (27%)        |         |
| >60 months                                     | 0 (0%)        | 91 (3%)               | 851 (25%)        | 456 (27%)        |         |
| <b>Current smoking<sup>b</sup></b>             | 37 (9%)       | 135 (5%)              | 396 (12%)        | 193 (11%)        | <0.001  |
| <b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)<sup>c</sup></b>      |               |                       |                  |                  | <0.001  |
| <18.5  | 3 (1%)        | 103 (4%)              | 111 (3%)         | 55 (3%)          |         |
| 18.5-24.9                                      | 124 (31%)     | 997 (40%)             | 1178 (36%)       | 590 (35%)        |         |
| 25-29.9  | 132 (33%)     | 894 (36%)             | 1091 (33%)       | 601 (35%)        |         |
| ≥30  | 140 (35%)     | 522 (21%)             | 918 (28%)        | 464 (27%)        |         |
| <b>Comorbidities<sup>d</sup></b>               |               |                       |                  |                  |         |
| <b>Diabetes</b>                                | 85 (21%)      | 352 (14%)             | 736 (22%)        | 431 (25%)        | <0.001  |
| <b>CAD</b>                                     | 31 (8%)       | 258 (10%)             | 569 (17%)        | 353 (21%)        | <0.001  |
| <b>PVD</b>                                     | 16 (4%)       | 92 (4%)               | 225 (7%)         | 144 (8%)         | <0.001  |

|  |            |           |            |           |        |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------|
| <b>CVD</b>   | 5 (1%)     | 96 (4%)   | 166 (5%)   | 100 (6%)  | <0.001 |
| <b>Chronic lung disease</b>                                    | 19 (5%)    | 113 (4%)  | 207 (6%)   | 109 (6%)  | 0.006  |
| <b>Non-skin cancer ever</b>                                    | 23 (6%)    | 133 (5%)  | 215 (6%)   | 117 (7%)  | 0.072  |
| <b>Last treatment pre-transplantation</b>                      |            |           |            |           | <0.001 |
| Facility HD  |            | 981 (38%) | 1824 (55%) | 965 (56%) |        |
| PD   |            | 525 (20%) | 1042 (31%) | 501 (29%) |        |
| HHD  |            | 135 (5%)  | 457 (14%)  | 245 (14%) |        |
| Pre-emptive transplant   |            | 974 (37%) | 17 (1%)    | 7 (0%)    |        |
| <b>Dialysis treatment time per week (in hours)<sup>e</sup></b> | 15 (14-21) |           |            |           |        |
| Intensive (≥ 16h/week)   | 187 (48%)  |           |            |           |        |
| Conventional (<16h/week)                                       | 199 (52%)  |           |            |           |        |

Values are expressed as frequency (percentage) for categorical variables, mean ± standard deviation for normally distributed continuous variables, and median (interquartile range) for non-normally distributed continuous variables.

ATSI = Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; BMI = Body Mass Index; CAD = coronary artery disease; CVD = cerebrovascular disease; ECD = expanded criteria donor; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; HD = hemodialysis; HHD = home hemodialysis; LD = living donor; n = number; PD = peritoneal dialysis; PVD = peripheral vascular disease; SCD = standard criteria donor.

<sup>a</sup>Data on late referral were missing for 2% of patients.

<sup>b</sup>Data on smoking status were missing for 2% of patients.

<sup>c</sup>Data on BMI were missing for 2% of patients.

<sup>d</sup>Data on comorbidities were missing for less than 0.5% of patients.

<sup>e</sup>Data on dialysis treatment time per week were missing for 4% of HHD patients.



**Table S5.** Hazard ratio for mortality comparing home hemodialysis patients and kidney transplant recipients in the Australian subcohort of home hemodialysis patients eligible for transplantation and kidney transplant recipients who entered the cohort between 2006 and 2017.

| Model   | Patients (n) | Events (n) | HR (95%CI)       | p-value |
|---|--------------|------------|------------------|---------|
| <b>Unadjusted</b>   | <b>8077</b>  | <b>666</b> |                  |         |
| HHD patients  | 404          | 11         | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| LD recipients   | 2615         | 159        | 0.98 (0.53-1.81) | 0.950   |
| SCD recipients  | 3340         | 278        | 1.72 (0.94-3.15) | 0.078   |
| ECD recipients  | 1718         | 218        | 2.96 (1.61-5.44) | <0.001  |
| <b>Adjusted for patient characteristics<sup>a</sup></b>   | <b>8077</b>  | <b>666</b> |                  |         |
| HHD patients  | 404          | 11         | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| LD recipients   | 2615         | 159        | 0.90 (0.48-1.66) | 0.728   |
| SCD recipients  | 3340         | 278        | 1.02 (0.55-1.90) | 0.944   |
| ECD recipients  | 1718         | 218        | 1.54 (0.83-2.87) | 0.173   |
| <b>PSM<sup>1</sup> cohort of HHD patients and TX recipients</b>   |              |            |                  |         |
| <b>Unadjusted</b>   | <b>796</b>   | <b>35</b>  |                  |         |
| HHD patients  | 398          | 11         | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| TX recipients   | 398          | 24         | 0.92 (0.43-1.95) | 0.820   |
| <b>Adjusted for patient characteristics with standardized difference after matching &gt;10%<sup>b</sup></b> | <b>796</b>   | <b>35</b>  |                  |         |
| HHD patients  | 398          | 11         | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| TX recipients   | 398          | 24         | 0.95 (0.44-2.07) | 0.901   |

<sup>a</sup>Adjusted for sex, age, dialysis vintage, BMI, ethnicity, cause of end-stage kidney disease, country, comorbidities at cohort entry (coronary artery disease, peripheral artery disease, cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease, history of non-skin cancer) and current smoking status.

<sup>b</sup>Adjusted for sex, age, BMI, diabetes and current smoking status.

<sup>1</sup>Matched for sex, age, dialysis vintage, BMI, ethnicity, cause of end-stage kidney disease, country, comorbidities at cohort entry (coronary artery disease, peripheral artery disease, cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease, history of non-skin cancer) and current smoking status.

95%CI = 95% confidence interval; ECD = expanded criteria donor; HR = hazard ratio; HHD = home hemodialysis; LD = living donor; n = number; PSM = propensity score matched; Ref = reference; SCD = standard criteria donor; TX = transplant.

**Table S6.** Baseline patient characteristics of propensity score matched (1) subcohorts of Australian home hemodialysis patients eligible for transplantation and Australian kidney transplant recipients who entered the cohort between 2006 and 2017, and absolute standardized differences in percentage between cohorts before and after matching.

| Characteristics<br>n=                          | HHD patients<br>398 | TX recipients<br>398 | p-value | Absolute standardized % differences |                |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
|  |                     |                      |         | Before matching                     | After matching |
| <b>Subtype of kidney donor</b>                 |                     |                      |         |                                     |                |
| LD   |                     | 376 (94%)            |         |                                     |                |
| SCD  |                     | 13 (3%)              |         |                                     |                |
| ECD  |                     | 9 (2%)               |         |                                     |                |
| <b>Time from start of study period (years)</b> | 15 (12-18)          | 15 (12-18)           | 0.049   |                                     |                |
| <b>Age at cohort entry (years)</b>             | 50 (42-56)          | 53 (44-60)           | 0.001   | 11.4                                | 18.4           |
| <b>Male sex</b>                                | 308 (77%)           | 338 (85%)            | 0.007   | 31.5                                | 16.7           |
| <b>Primary kidney disease</b>                  |                     |                      | 0.024   | 4.4                                 | 3.9            |
| Diabetic nephropathy                           | 52 (13%)            | 63 (16%)             |         |                                     |                |
| Glomerulonephritis                             | 152 (38%)           | 126 (32%)            |         |                                     |                |
| Reflux nephropathy                             | 22 (6%)             | 12 (3%)              |         |                                     |                |
| Polycystic disease                             | 96 (24%)            | 134 (34%)            |         |                                     |                |
| Hypertension                                   | 31 (8%)             | 32 (8%)              |         |                                     |                |
| Other  | 34 (9%)             | 25 (6%)              |         |                                     |                |
| Uncertain                                      | 10 (3%)             | 6 (2%)               |         |                                     |                |
| Not reported                                   | 1 (0%)              | 0 (0%)               |         |                                     |                |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>                               |                     |                      | 0.675   | 4.0                                 | 4.7            |
| Caucasian                                      | 329 (83%)           | 335 (%)              |         |                                     |                |
| ATSI   | 0 (0%)              | 0 (0%)               |         |                                     |                |
| Asian  | 42 (11%)            | 39 (10%)             |         |                                     |                |
| Māori  | 4 (1%)              | 4 (1%)               |         |                                     |                |
| Pacific Islander                               | 7 (2%)              | 7 (2%)               |         |                                     |                |
| Other  | 13 (3%)             | 13 (3%)              |         |                                     |                |
| Not reported                                   | 3 (1%)              | 0 (0%)               |         |                                     |                |
| <b>Late referral<sup>a</sup></b>               | 22 (6%)             | 11 (3%)              | 0.055   |                                     |                |
| <b>Dialysis vintage</b>                        |                     |                      | <0.001  | 144.0                               | 5.6            |
| <i>MEDIAN (months)</i>                         | 1.7 (0.6-2.4)       | 0 (0-0)              |         |                                     |                |
| 0 months                                       | 72 (18%)            | 331 (83%)            |         |                                     |                |
| >0-6 months                                    | 326 (82%)           | 63 (16%)             |         |                                     |                |
| >6-12 months                                   | 0 (0%)              | 4 (1%)               |         |                                     |                |
| <b>Current smoking</b>                         | 37 (9%)             | 24 (6%)              | 0.083   | 0.9                                 | 11.3           |
| <b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>                  |                     |                      | 0.010   | 26.1                                | 21.5           |
| <18.5  | 3 (1%)              | 0 (0%)               |         |                                     |                |
| 18.5-24.9                                      | 124 (31%)           | 95 (24%)             |         |                                     |                |
| 25-29.9  | 131 (33%)           | 126 (32%)            |         |                                     |                |
| ≥30  | 140 (35%)           | 177 (44%)            |         |                                     |                |

|  |            |           |        |      |      |
|--|------------|-----------|--------|------|------|
| <b>Comorbidities</b>   |            |           |        |      |      |
| <b>Diabetes</b>  | 85 (21%)   | 108 (27%) | 0.057  | 6.6  | 14.4 |
| <b>CAD</b>   | 30 (8%)    | 34 (9%)   | 0.602  | 24.5 | 3.2  |
| <b>PVD</b>   | 15 (4%)    | 15 (4%)   | >0.999 | 10.4 | 0.0  |
| <b>CVD</b>   | 5 (1%)     | 1 (0%)    | 0.101  | 20.6 | 5.9  |
| <b>Chronic lung disease</b>                                    | 18 (5%)    | 22 (6%)   | 0.516  | 5.1  | 4.6  |
| <b>Non-skin cancer ever</b>                                    | 23 (6%)    | 30 (8%)   | 0.320  | 1.9  | 7.4  |
| <b>Last treatment pre-transplantation</b>                      |            |           |        |      |      |
| Facility HD  |            | 52 (13%)  |        |      |      |
| PD   |            | 14 (4%)   |        |      |      |
| HHD  |            | 1 (0%)    |        |      |      |
| Pre-emptive transplant   |            | 331 (83%) |        |      |      |
| <b>Dialysis treatment time per week (in hours)<sup>b</sup></b> | 15 (13-21) |           |        |      |      |
| Intensive ( $\geq 16$ h/week)                                  | 199 (52%)  |           |        |      |      |
| Conventional (<16h/week)                                       | 183 (48%)  |           |        |      |      |

(1) Matched for sex, age, dialysis vintage, BMI, ethnicity, cause of end-stage kidney disease, country, comorbidities at cohort entry (coronary artery disease, peripheral artery disease, cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease, history of non-skin cancer) and current smoking status.

Values are expressed as frequency (percentage) for categorical variables, mean  $\pm$  standard deviation for normally distributed continuous variables, and median (interquartile range) for non-normally distributed continuous variables.

ATSI = Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; BMI = Body Mass Index; CAD = coronary artery disease; CVD = cerebrovascular disease; ECD = expanded criteria donor; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; HD = hemodialysis; HHD = home hemodialysis; LD = living donor; n = number; PD = peritoneal dialysis; PVD = peripheral vascular disease; SCD = standard criteria donor; TX = transplant.

<sup>a</sup>Data on late referral were missing for 1% of patients.

<sup>b</sup>Data on dialysis treatment time per week were missing for 4% of HHD patients.

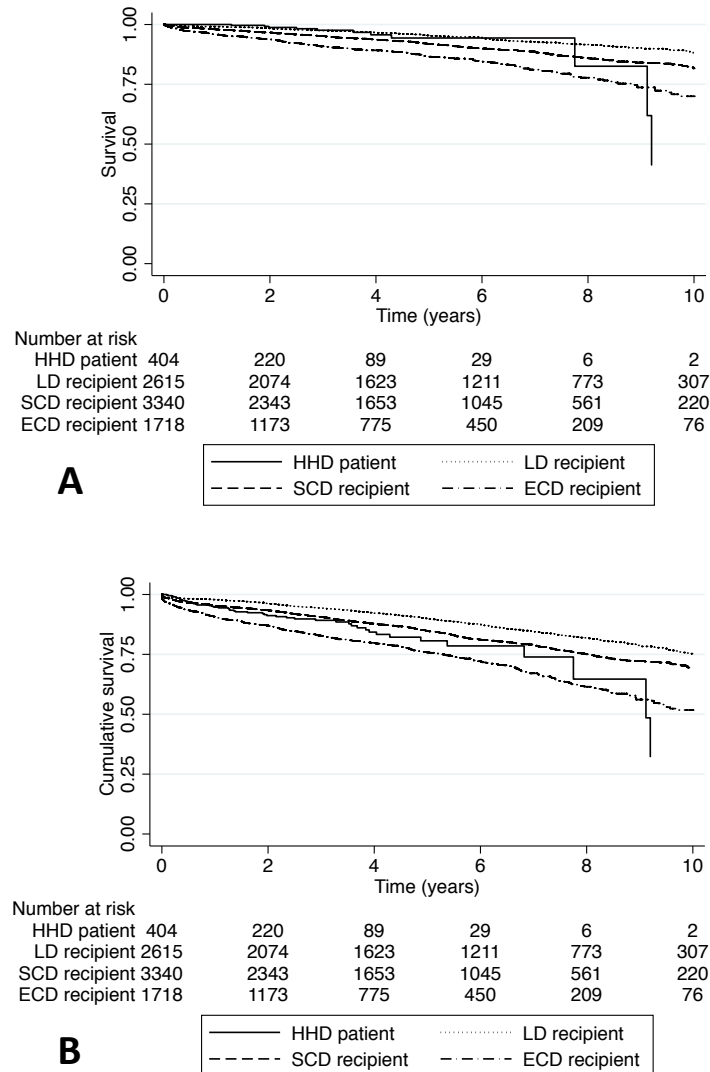
**Table S7.** Hazard ratio for time-to-treatment failure or death comparing Australian HHD patients eligible for transplantation and Australian kidney transplant recipient subtypes (LD, SCD and ECD) who entered the cohort between 2006 and 2017.

|   | Patients (n) | Events (n)  | HR (95%CI)       | p-value |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------------|---------|
| <b>Unadjusted</b>                                       | <b>8077</b>  | <b>1374</b> |                  |         |
| HHD patients  | 404          | 48          | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| LD recipients   | 2615         | 366         | 0.55 (0.40-0.74) | <0.001  |
| SCD recipients  | 3340         | 532         | 0.79 (0.58-1.06) | 0.115   |
| ECD recipients  | 1718         | 428         | 1.38 (1.02-1.86) | 0.034   |
| <b>Adjusted for patient characteristics<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>8077</b>  | <b>1374</b> |                  |         |
| HHD patients  | 404          | 48          | 1.00 (Ref)       |         |
| LD recipients   | 2615         | 366         | 0.53 (0.39-0.72) | <0.001  |
| SCD recipients  | 3340         | 532         | 0.55 (0.40-0.75) | <0.001  |
| ECD recipients  | 1718         | 428         | 0.93 (0.68-1.27) | 0.635   |

<sup>a</sup>Adjusted for : sex, age, dialysis vintage, BMI, ethnicity, cause of end-stage kidney disease, country, comorbidities at cohort entry (coronary artery disease, peripheral artery disease, cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease, history of non-skin cancer) and current smoking status

95%CI = 95% confidence interval; ECD = expanded criteria donor; HR = hazard ratio; HHD = home hemodialysis; LD = living donor; n = number; PSM = propensity score matched; Ref = reference; SCD = standard criteria donor.

**Figure S1.** On-treatment survival [A] and time-to-treatment failure or death [B] comparing Australian HHD patients eligible for transplantation and Australian kidney transplant recipient subtypes (LD, SCD and ECD) who entered the cohort between 2006 and 2017.



On-treatment survival [A] unadjusted overall log-rank  $p$ -value $<0.001$ ; HHD vs LD log-rank  $p$ -value=0.653; HHD vs SCD log-rank  $p$ -value=0.085; HHD vs ECD log-rank  $p$ -value $<0.001$ ). Time-to-treatment failure or death [B] unadjusted (overall log-rank  $p$ -value $<0.001$ ; HHD vs LD log-rank  $p$ -value $<0.001$ ; HHD vs SCD log-rank  $p$ -value=0.128; HHD vs ECD log-rank  $p$ -value=0.016). ECD = expanded criteria donor; HHD = home hemodialysis; LD = living donor; SCD = standard criteria donor.



## 6 – Discussion

Les articles présentés incluaient chacun une discussion détaillée des résultats obtenus. Ces discussions ne seront pas répétées en intégralité ici, mais un retour sur les principaux résultats sera fourni avec leur mise en contexte par rapport à l'objectif global de ce mémoire, tout en abordant les principales forces et faiblesses des différentes études. Pour conclure, des projets futurs en lien avec les connaissances acquises seront brièvement abordés.

### 6.1 Sommaire des résultats et mise en contexte

Dans le premier article, l'étude du registre ANZDATA a permis de démontrer que les caractéristiques des centres contribuaient à une portion importante de la variabilité (0 à 87%) dans le recours aux thérapies à domicile entre les centres. Les plus petits centres et une plus courte durée hebdomadaire d'HDC étaient associés à un plus faible taux d'utilisation de l'HDD, alors qu'une plus grande proportion d'accès permanent pour la dialyse à l'initiation de celle-ci était associée à une plus grande utilisation de l'HDD. Dans un modèle alternatif, une plus faible proportion de patients sur une thérapie à domicile dans un centre était également un prédicteur indépendant d'un moindre recours à l'HDD. Ainsi, au-delà de certaines caractéristiques des patients, des facteurs associés au centre étaient aussi responsables de variation dans le recours à l'HDD entre les centres.

Il est ici possible de tenter de comprendre si des liens sont à faire avec la situation du Québec. Tel qu'énoncé précédemment, les taux d'utilisation de l'HDD sont extrêmement variables d'une région du Québec à une autre.<sup>(16)</sup> Dans plusieurs régions, aucun programme d'HDD n'est même présent. Sachant que les plus petits centres de dialyse étaient associés à un plus faible taux de dialyse à domicile dans le contexte de l'ANZ, il serait intéressant d'évaluer si les variations au Québec sont dues au même type de caractéristiques des centres. De plus, on est en droit de se demander s'il pourrait être bénéfique que les patients issus de plus petits centres puissent être

référéés vers de plus grands centres qui disposent de programme de dialyse à domicile en envisageant une prise en charge mixte par les deux centres pour le suivi de ces patients. Toutefois, compte tenu du débordement de l'ensemble des centres de néphrologie de la province, cette option peut sembler difficilement faisable. La présente étude ne peut répondre à ces questions, mais permet de pousser la réflexion plus loin sur des avenues de solutions pour favoriser les thérapies à domicile.

Par exemple, on peut aussi se questionner sur l'importance d'une prise en charge précoce chez les patients présentant une insuffisance rénale avancée qui tendent vers la dialyse. En effet, dans la première étude présentée, une référence tardive à un service de néphrologie était également un facteur associé à un moindre recours à une thérapie à domicile. Ainsi, il semble que l'accès à une prise en charge précoce par les cliniques de protection rénale (anciennement nommées cliniques de pré-dialyse) est souhaitable pour favoriser le recours à l'HDD et la DP.

Par ailleurs, tel qu'aussi présenté dans ce premier article, certains facteurs associés au patient (exemple : l'âge avancé), bien qu'ils ne soient pas modifiables directement, peuvent représenter des barrières à l'adoption de thérapies à domicile qui pourraient être palliées par l'offre de certains services. Par exemple, il est intéressant de se questionner à savoir si l'âge avancé n'est pas également associé à une perte d'autonomie fonctionnelle qui rend le recours à la dialyse à domicile beaucoup plus ardu. Ainsi, le recours à des stratégies pour palier à ce problème peuvent être envisagées. On peut, entre autres, penser à certains programmes de DP assistée qui sont offerts dans certains centres de dialyse au Québec et en Ontario. Dans ces programmes, des infirmières spécialisées en DP se rendent sur le lieu de résidence du patient pour aider aux traitements de dialyse, permettant tout de même une thérapie à domicile, mais avec un certain soutien du personnel soignant sur place, de manière intermittente.



Dans le second article, toujours grâce à l'analyse du registre ANZDATA, il a été démontré que l'HDD était associée à une plus longue durée de traitement hebdomadaire que l'HDC (16h vs 13,5h). Il n'existait qu'une variation minime de la durée hebdomadaire médiane de traitement en HDC entre les centres et au cours du temps durant la période de 2000 à 2017. Une plus grande variabilité de la durée de traitement en HDD selon les patients, les centres et à travers le temps était notée, comparativement à l'HDC. Entre autres, suite à la publication, en 2006, de données démontrant un bénéfice de survie associée aux sessions de dialyse de 4,5 heures et plus,(66) on assistait à une hausse de la durée des traitements en HDD dans les années suivantes, alors que la durée est restée stable en HDC. Ces constatations laissent croire que l'HDD offre non seulement une plus grande flexibilité quant à l'horaire des traitements pour le patient, mais est également moins affectée par les limitations de ressources dont souffrent les centres de dialyse. Ainsi, il apparaît plus aisé de varier la durée du traitement en HDD en fonction des caractéristiques des patients, mais également de manière plus systémique, en n'étant pas restreint par les infrastructures d'un centre de dialyse qui ne peut pas nécessairement se permettre d'augmenter la durée du traitement de l'ensemble des patients, même si les bénéfices d'une plus longue durée de traitement ont été prouvés.

Dans le contexte global de ce mémoire, ces données viennent ajouter un poids supplémentaire aux recommandations du MSSS pour la favorisation des thérapies à domicile. Au-delà du besoin d'alléger la pression déjà présente sur les centres de dialyse quant au nombre de patients présents dans chaque centre, l'utilisation de l'HDD devrait être d'autant plus préconisée chez les patients souhaitant ou nécessitant plus de flexibilité de leur traitement, ainsi que pour les patients requérant de plus longues heures de traitement (exemple: pression artérielle mal contrôlée, gestion difficile de la volémie, mauvais contrôle du bilan phosphocalcique). Au Québec, la durée habituelle d'un traitement de dialyse en centre est de 4 heures, à raison de 3 sessions par semaine. Ainsi, la moyenne du Québec est déjà en deçà de celle de l'Australie à raison de 1,5 heure par semaine de moins. Certains patients en HDC doivent subir un 4<sup>e</sup> traitement au cours de la semaine pour un total hebdomadaire de 16h afin d'avoir un traitement global satisfaisant. En raison de limitation des ressources, il est souvent impossible de prévoir des sessions plus longues,

mais moins fréquentes, en HDC, chez ces patients. En HDD, il pourrait être possible pour ceux-ci d'obtenir une durée hebdomadaire comparable à raison de 3 sessions de 5,5 heures (16,5h) à domicile, alors que la prolongation des trois traitements hebdomadaires par 1,5 heure dans un centre empêcherait, pour respecter les heures d'ouverture de l'unité ou l'horaire de travail du personnel, une durée complète de traitement pour les autres patients qui utiliseraient la même station de dialyse. Ces résultats démontrent donc bien la difficulté pour un centre de dialyse de permettre une réelle variabilité dans la durée de traitement pouvant être offerte aux patients en HDC.

Finalement, dans le troisième article, le bénéfice de la transplantation rénale chez les receveurs de reins de donneurs vivants et de donneurs à critère standard était démontré par rapport à l'HDD. Toutefois, on dénotait une survie similaire des patients en HDD par rapport aux receveurs de greffe rénale de donneurs à critères élargis, et ce, de manière soutenue, à travers une variété de méthodes statistiques et analyses de sensibilité (dont plusieurs analyses multivariées s'intéressant à divers sous-groupes et avec l'inclusion ou l'exclusion de différentes variables jugées significatives, ainsi que l'utilisation de score de propension pour la comparaison des sous-groupes par appariement [*propensity score matching*]). Ces données revêtent une importance particulière pour les patients considérés comme de potentiels candidats « marginaux » à la greffe (par exemple: patient plus âgé présentant des comorbidités le mettant à risque au moment de la procédure chirurgicale). Dans la pratique clinique, ces patients se voient souvent offrir des reins de donneurs à critères élargis. Ainsi, dans le cas d'un tel patient, il est important de bien évaluer les issues importantes pour le patient (par exemple: qualité de vie en HDD vs en post-greffe rénale) et de considérer que la greffe n'offre pas nécessairement de bénéfice au niveau de la survie selon le type de donneur.

Aussi, tel qu'énoncé précédemment, la transplantation rénale n'est pas toujours souhaitée ou possible. Dans ces situations, il est important de considérer les bénéfices que semble offrir l'HDD pour en promouvoir l'utilisation en pareil cas. Par exemple, dans le cas d'un patient se voyant

refuser l'accès à la transplantation rénale en raison d'un diagnostic de cancer (curable ou non) ou d'une problématique immunologique, il peut être très difficile d'accepter cette réalité lorsque les bénéfices de la transplantation ont été grandement vantés par rapport à la dialyse. Il peut alors être d'autant plus positif, surtout d'un point de vue psychologique, d'aborder les avantages liés à l'HDD chez cette population. Il est toutefois à noter que cette étude n'a pas comparé l'HDD à l'HDC ou la DP chez ce type de patients.

## **6.2 Forces et limites des résultats**

Les études présentées dans ce mémoire étant toutes basées sur les données du registre ANZDATA, plusieurs forces et limites des résultats sont partagées par les trois. Ici, les limitations précises de chaque étude déjà abordées dans les articles ne seront pas répétées de manière indue.

Tout d'abord, la collecte des données pour le registre ANZDATA étant obligatoire pour tous les centres de dialyse, la quantité de données manquantes étant faible et l'utilisation des modalités de dialyse à domicile étant très élevée dans ces deux pays, l'usage de ce registre pour mener des études observationnelles impliquant des patients traités par HDD est possible, avec une taille d'échantillon importante et une bonne représentativité de la population des dialysés de l'ANZ, ce qui améliore ainsi la validité interne des résultats. Ensuite, dans les trois études présentées, une longue période de temps a été évaluée, permettant un long suivi et/ou permettant de s'intéresser à l'évolution des tendances au cours du temps. Les résultats présentés étaient également robustes à travers une variété de méthodes statistiques. Dans les cas où les modèles employés n'étaient pas robustes, les résultats ont été présentés de manière très nuancée ou plutôt descriptive et les limitations spécifiques des modèles ont été divulguées (par exemple: petit nombre de patients impliqué dans un résultat).

La principale limite des trois études présentées est inhérente à toute analyse observationnelle : il est impossible d'exclure la présence de possibles facteurs de confusion résiduels. Tel que décrit dans la méthodologie ci-haut, il est possible que des biais de sélection et d'indication viennent influencer les résultats. En effet, malgré toutes les stratégies statistiques précédemment décrites dans la méthodologie et détaillées dans les articles, il n'est pas possible d'exclure complètement la contribution de ces potentiels biais. Par ailleurs, tel que décrit en détails dans les trois articles, la portée limitée des données recueillies par le registre n'a pas permis d'évaluer tous les facteurs jugés cliniquement pertinents par rapport aux questions de recherche, notamment les aspects psycho-sociaux, les caractéristiques des centres liées au personnel soignant, etc.

Finalement, il est important de mentionner la validité externe de ces études. De manière globale, les trois études sont basées sur la population de l'ANZ, où les modalités de dialyse à domicile sont grandement utilisées, tout en bénéficiant des ressources nécessaires à la pérennité de ces services et de l'expérience acquise au fil des années. Les résultats ne sont donc pas nécessairement transposables à d'autres populations où l'accès à la dialyse à domicile n'est pas le même et où les pratiques cliniques sont très différentes (exemple : utilisation de la technologie NxStage avec dialysat à faible débit aux États-Unis). Dans le contexte global de ce mémoire, l'objectif principal était justement d'explorer des trouvailles issues de l'expérience australienne et néo-zélandaise afin de s'intéresser à ce qui pourrait être retenu comme leçon et de générer des hypothèses quant à des stratégies pouvant soutenir une favorisation de l'HDD selon la situation du Québec.

D'autres limitations liées à la validité externe plus spécifiques à chaque étude en raison des sous-groupes évalués sont aussi abordées dans les articles et dans la section méthodologie (par exemple : utilisation de la définition de 90 jours pour l'inclusion des patients incidents en HDD dans la troisième étude, qui pourrait représenter un groupe sélectionné de patients).

### 6.3 Projets futurs

Il est très important de noter que les études présentées dans ce mémoire ont toutes été rendues possibles grâce à l'existence du registre robuste qui est maintenu en ANZ depuis plusieurs décennies. Celui-ci permet non seulement d'avoir une idée d'ensemble de la population sous TSR dans ces deux pays, mais aussi de mener à terme une panoplie d'études plus spécifiques avec des objectifs bien précis sur la population incluse dans le registre. Ces études peuvent autant s'intéresser à des aspects épidémiologiques qu'être menées afin de suivre l'évolution de ces patients, permettant ainsi d'évaluer certains aspects de la qualité des soins aux patients par le biais de plusieurs éléments collectés par le registre (exemple : mortalité). Ainsi, il apparaît bien déplorable que le Québec ne participe plus au RCITO depuis 2012, alors que ce mémoire est un exemple bien concret démontrant que ce type de registres peuvent aider à mieux connaître la population visée et mener à des modifications dans le but d'améliorer les pratiques en néphrologie.

Devant l'absence de données collectées de manière structurée à l'échelle du Québec quant aux thérapies à domicile, la création d'un réseau pour la collecte de telles données serait la première étape permettant de mieux cerner les barrières et facilitateurs à la dialyse à domicile dans le contexte local. Ainsi, dans un deuxième temps, selon les facteurs problématiques et aidants identifiés, des mesures pourraient être implantées à l'échelle du Québec pour favoriser l'HDD de manière globale.

Par ailleurs, à plus petite échelle, l'évaluation de chaque programme d'HDD du Québec devrait être faite également afin d'identifier non seulement les facteurs liés au recours à l'HDD, mais aussi s'intéresser aux différences de pratique (exemple: durée hebdomadaire des traitements), à la qualité des soins (exemple: délais pour les interventions en lien avec les accès vasculaires), aux issues cliniques des patients (exemple: hospitalisations, décès, échec de technique) et de la prospérité des programmes déjà existants (exemple: maintien d'un bon nombre de patients dans

le programme, formation du personnel pour permettre l'expansion). La tenue d'un registre d'HDD uniformisé pour tous les centres du Québec pourrait s'avérer d'une grande importance.

Évidemment, au-delà de l'importance d'évaluer localement la situation au Québec, il est aussi primordial de souligner que la structure du RCITO, déjà en place, est très solide et que la contribution du Québec à ce registre apparaît bien nécessaire pour une évaluation juste du tableau global à l'échelle canadienne (sans l'exclusion du Québec) et de la performance du Québec par rapport aux autres provinces et territoires. Ce mémoire vient donc s'ajouter aux efforts déjà déployés par plusieurs néphrologues québécois afin de prouver la nécessité pour le Québec de participer au registre canadien, qui est solide et bien implanté.

Finalement, des collaborations internationales demeurent primordiales pour assurer la poursuite du développement de la dialyse à domicile à travers le monde. Forte de cette expérience de recherche avec de nombreux néphrologues de partout en Australie (mais principalement à Brisbane) et en Nouvelle-Zélande, les opportunités de collaboration entre l'ANZ et le Canada dans un proche avenir sont multiples, notamment dans le but de comparer les pratiques entre les pays.

## 7 – Conclusion

Ce mémoire de maîtrise avait comme objectif principal d'identifier des éléments concrets, par rapport à l'utilisation de l'HDD en Australie et en Nouvelle-Zélande, qui pourraient être utilisés de manière à en tirer des leçons transposables aux modèles canadien et, plus spécifiquement, québécois. Les articles présentés s'intéressaient non seulement à tenter de générer des hypothèses quant à des stratégies pour favoriser l'utilisation de l'HDD, mais également à pouvoir justifier la préconisation de cette modalité par rapport à certains bénéfices attribués à l'HDD dans des études antérieures, notamment par rapport à la flexibilité dans la durée du traitement d'HD offerte dans le contexte du domicile et, dans quelques contextes plus précis, chez certains groupes de patients souffrant d'une IRT.

Les différentes questions de recherche ont été abordées par l'évaluation du registre ANZDATA, incluant des patients sous TSR de l'Australie et la Nouvelle-Zélande de 1997 à 2017. La première section du mémoire a identifié la présence d'un effet de centre dans le recours à la dialyse à domicile, démontrant que des caractéristiques, tant au niveau des patients que des centres, étaient responsables de la variabilité notée dans le taux d'utilisation d'HDD entre les centres de dialyse. La seconde partie a démontré qu'il n'existait pas d'effet de centre dans la durée de traitement d'HD, tant à domicile qu'en centre, mais que la variabilité dans cette durée était principalement due aux caractéristiques propres aux patients, ainsi qu'à des pratiques variant entre les états/pays, et ce, de manière beaucoup plus notable en HDD, soulignant la flexibilité offerte par cette modalité, beaucoup moins affectée par la limitation des ressources vécue en HDC. Finalement, le dernier volet de cette maîtrise a démontré que l'HDD avait le potentiel d'être une alternative équivalente à la transplantation rénale au niveau de la survie des patients dans le cas d'un greffon reçu d'un donneur à critères étendus.

Devant les besoins grandissants pour des TSR dans le monde entier (et plus spécifiquement au Québec), ainsi que dans un contexte de restrictions des ressources, tant au niveau de la dialyse en établissement qu'en transplantation rénale, qui peinent à répondre à ces besoins, l'utilisation des modalités de suppléance rénale à domicile a été identifiée comme une solution à privilégier. Bien que des recommandations aient été mises de l'avant par le MSSS en 2015 pour favoriser le recours à la dialyse à domicile, il est important d'identifier plus concrètement, dans la pratique clinique, certains éléments favorisant ou limitant l'utilisation de ces modalités. L'expansion fructueuse de l'utilisation de l'HDD nécessite un engagement au niveau politique, mais aussi au niveau du personnel de la santé œuvrant auprès de la clientèle souffrant d'IRT. Il est donc primordial de bien comprendre l'importance des bénéfices possibles de cette modalité dans un contexte clinique réaliste. Les données observationnelles issues du registre ANZDATA offrent ainsi des informations très pertinentes, même à l'extérieur de l'ANZ, notamment en raison de grandes similitudes dans le profil de la population de patients souffrant d'IRT entre ces deux pays et le Canada, mais également dans le système de santé en place et la répartition de la population sur le territoire. Le recours à l'HDD est particulièrement faible au Québec et nous avons beaucoup à humblement apprendre de l'expérience de l'Australie et de la Nouvelle-Zélande, qui font figures de proue au niveau mondial quant à l'utilisation de l'HDD. À nous, maintenant, de transposer ces leçons sur le terrain, ici au Québec.



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