

Dialysis

An Introduction



What is Dialysis?

Dialysis is a treatment that assists kidney function when they cannot work properly. It removes waste and extra fluids from the blood.

How Each Process Works

Hemodialysis:

Blood is accessed through a special vessel or catheter, filtered by a machine to remove waste and extra fluids, and then returned to the body.

Peritoneal Dialysis:

Fluid is infused into the abdomen, absorbs waste and fluids, and is then drained. This process is repeated several times daily or overnight.

This pamphlet is for informational purposes only and should not replace professional medical advice. Please consult your healthcare provider for personalized care.

Types of Dialysis

Hemodialysis:

This type uses a machine to clean the blood. Blood is taken out, filtered through a machine, and returned to the body.

Treatments are done at a center or at home.

Peritoneal Dialysis:

This type uses the lining of the abdomen to filter blood. Special fluid is infused into the abdomen, absorbs waste, and is then drained.

This process is usually done at home.

When is Dialysis Necessary?

Dialysis is typically needed when kidney function drops significantly. The decision to start dialysis is made by the healthcare team based on overall kidney function.