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Haemodiafiltration Revisited

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Haemodiafiltration (HDF) is not a new treatment the concept has been available for over 30 years. However using HDF for renal replacement therapy for patients with chronic kidney disease has not been embraced. The expense associated with the treatment and the complexity of the machinery required to deliver the treatment has not given doctors or nurses the confidence to provide HDF as an alternative to conventional haemodialysis. Advances in membrane technology and haemodialysis machines has provided a safe cost effect means of providing HDF for many patients with Chronic Kidney Disease. On line fluid replacement has reduced the complexity of the treatment as treatment options can be changed with ease and calculation of the required fluid replacement is determined by the machine using total protein and haematocrit levels. Patients feel better and report being more active. We have been performing HDF for over two years now and have found that hypertension is better controlled, intradialytic hypotension is reduced and less cardiac complications have been experienced. It is emerging as a good alternative to manage treatments for the patient with cardiac problems who have difficulty removing fluid during their treatment.

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