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Quality of Life as Described by Peritoneal Dialysis Patients in Alaska

(graduate thesis)

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Alaska has the highest percentage of peritoneal dialysis (PD) patients in the country at 25% compared to the national average of less than 8%. The scientific literature is replete with reference to the fact that PD costs less than hemodialysis and has comparable mortality rates to other treatments for end stage renal disease. Quantitative studies of quality of life for dialysis patients have not captured the individuals' stories and personal life accounts.

This descriptive qualitative study explored the quality of life experienced by some Alaskan PD patients. Face-to-face, semi-structured interviews involving ten PD patients in Alaska were content-analyzed. Emergent themes included *Transition to Peritoneal Dialysis*, *Contextual Factors*, and *Contributing Lifestyle*. Nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians may glean important insight into the lives of PD patients and develop helpful strategies for care. Findings from this study will add to what is known of quality of life for PD patients in Alaska.

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