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**Health Literacy Levels in a Nephrology Population: Predialysis Clinic, Hemodialysis
and Home Dialysis: Result of a Cohort Study in French Tertiary Center**

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Health literacy is defined by the World Health Organization as “the cognitive and social skills which determine the motivation and ability of individuals to gain access to, understand and use information in ways which promote and maintain good health. Health literacy is especially important in nephrology due to the complexity of chronic kidney disease, high comorbidities and need for self-management skills. The objective of this study is to define health literacy levels in predialysis clinic, in center hemodialysis (ICHHD), peritoneal dialysis (PD) and home hemodialysis (HHD). We conducted a transversal cohort study from October 2016 to April 2017. We used 2 questionnaires to measure health literacy: 1) the Brief Health Literacy Screen (BHLS) to screen for low health literacy; 2) the Health Literacy Questionnaire (HLQ) to evaluate multiple health literacy domains. We used Cronbach’s Alpha and ANOVA.

353 patients were included (predialysis=152; ICHHD=157; PD=32; HHD=12). Mean age was between 49 to 68 years old in 4 groups. Internal consistency of all HLQ scales was high, with a Cronbach's Alpha of at least 0.75 in each domain (0.752 to 0.880). We have a low literacy level statistically different among the 4 groups (predialysis=14.4%; ICHHD=29.3%; PD=10.5%, HHD=0%) with BHLS. With HLQ, 3 domains was statistically different (Domain 1: feeling understood and supported by healthcare providers; Domain 5: Appraisal of health information; Domain 9: Understand health information well enough to know what to do). Findings on the two health literacy measures paralleled one another, with patients on home renal replacement therapy (HH and PD) scoring higher on the BHLS and generally achieving higher scores across many of the domains of the HLQ. Health literacy is an important concept to be considered by nurses in care, training tools and patient education.

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