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Introduction

Peritoneal Dialysis is a therapy performed for patients in end-stage renal failure. Therapy acts to clean their blood as the kidneys are unable to do so.

As an intern I was able to:

- **Learn about Peritoneal Dialysis,** I became familiar with how Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) functions and normal problems and issues that may arise
- **Help streamline systems and organize,** I created a system for paper charting patient visits that greatly increased organization and patient confidentiality
- **Train employees and patients,** I offered training on PD to hemodialysis staff as well as several patients

Overall, I was able to learn a lot about this specific patient population and gain a broader understanding of kidney disease as a whole.

Activities

As part of my internship I gained valuable clinical knowledge

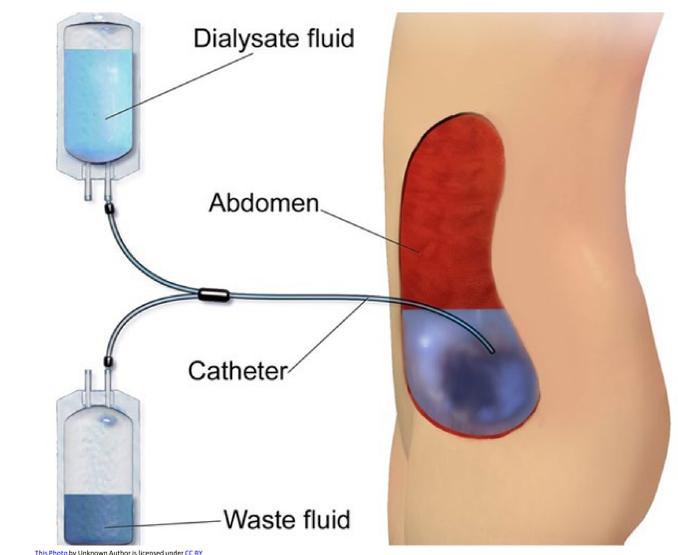
1. I assisted in lab draws as well as medication administration within my scope as a technician
2. I aided in adequacy tests to ensure PD treatments were cleaning patient blood efficiently
3. I performed catheter site care of the PD catheter

Acquired Skills

My internship helped me to learn the mechanism of action for peritoneal dialysis and the intricacies of treatment. I gained enough knowledge to run a peritoneal dialysis treatment and troubleshoot various problems.

I also gained insight into patient lives and what it means for them to receive this type of therapy. There are pros and cons to hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis, and it was beneficial to understand this aspect

The peritoneal cavity



Peritoneal Dialysis Catheter and Peritoneal Fluid

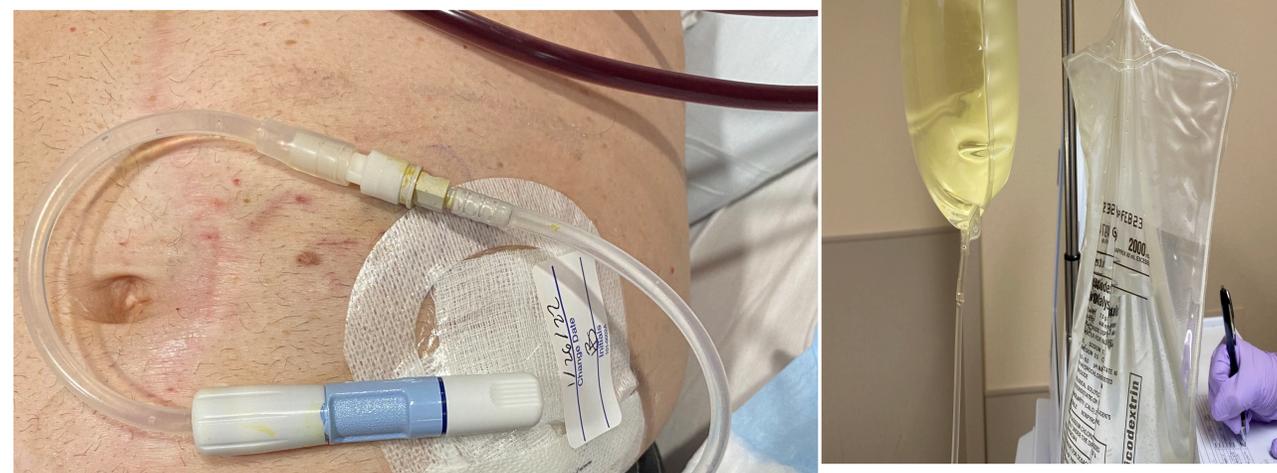


Figure on left: a PD catheter that I was able to perform site care on and assist in a dressing change
Figure on right: PD solution: used (left) and unused (right) the yellow coloring is protein and electrolyte waste from the peritoneal cavity. Photos used with express permission from patients.

Conclusions

Peritoneal Dialysis is a great therapy option for patients looking for in-home treatment. As a PD intern I was able to aid in on-site and in-clinic care and maintenance of these patients and their equipment.



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