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CLINICAL STUDY

Initial high peritoneal transport status is not a predictor of mortality in peritoneal dialysis patients

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ABSTRACT

Objective: Initial high peritoneal permeability in peritoneal dialysis (PD) patients was previously thought to be a poor prognostic factor. We aimed to study the factors that determine the initial transport status and prognosis in PD patients. **Methods:** This was an observation cohort study that enrolled 551 fresh uremic patients who commenced PD in a single PD center from January 1994 to December 2004. Patients with different initial peritoneal transport status were analyzed and determinants of the initial peritoneal transport status were evaluated. All patients were followed up to investigate the risks of mortality. **Results:** At the start of PD, only age and sex were determinants of the initial peritoneal transport status upon multiple linear regression analysis. The average duration of the study follow-up was 45.4 ± 29.4 months. In the follow-up, a regression toward mean of transport status was found. About 107 patients died during the observation period. Cox-multivariate analysis revealed only age (RR = 1.06, $p < 0.001$), comorbidity index (RR = 2.31, $p < 0.001$), serum albumin (RR = 0.58, $p = 0.008$), and percentage of lean body mass (RR = 0.97, $p = 0.008$) to be independent predictors of mortality. **Conclusion:** We observed that the initial peritoneal transport status is not a determinant factor of long-term mortality. The reason may be due to a consequence of regression toward mean of the transport status. Whether the observed longitudinal regression-to-mean phenomenon change represent any physiologic relevance is hard to define. Further studies on the underlying mechanisms are needed.

Keywords: peritoneal dialysis; mortality; peritoneal equilibration test; comorbidity; serum albumin

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INTRODUCTION

Since the peritoneal equilibration test (PET) was first developed by Twardowski et al. in 1987, it has been used widely as a valuable tool for categorizing and monitoring functional changes in peritoneal membrane function.¹ High transporters undergo better clearance during dialysis but have poor ultrafiltration (UF) due to rapid absorption of glucose from the peritoneum and dissipation of the osmotic gradient. They (high transporters) would benefit from frequent short-duration dwells, whereas low transporters would benefit from long-duration, high-volume dwells. Different dialysis prescription strategies would prevent most patients of all transport types from either fluid overload or inadequate dialysis. However, several reports have suggested that a high peritoneal transport status is associated with a poor patient outcome.^{2–4} Data from the CANUSA study indicated that high solute transporters are associated with a greater risk of

combined technique failure and mortality.² Recently, Rumpsfeld et al. showed that a high peritoneal transport status is a very significant independent risk factor for mortality in peritoneal dialysis (PD) patients from Australia and New Zealand.⁴ The definite reasons for this are unclear. One possible explanation is that a high peritoneal transport status is associated with a decrease in UF capacity, leading to UF failure in the worst affected patients.⁵ Alternatively, a high transport status may be a marker of comorbidity, malnutrition, or inflammation.^{6,7} It may be that the poor prognosis associated with a high peritoneal transport status may relate more to these factors. Contrary to the above-mentioned studies, some studies demonstrated that a high peritoneal transport status by itself is not an independent risk factor for mortality.^{7–10}

The peritoneal transport rate is known to change over time in PD. Nevertheless, the reports on longitudinal changes in the peritoneal transport rate are diverse. Davies et al. reported that there is a gradual

increase in the small solute transport status over the years with reduction in the UF capacity.⁵ However, some groups have shown that longitudinal changes in the peritoneal permeability follow a centripetal or regression toward mean pattern, which may be beneficial to baseline high transporters by increasing UF.^{11–13}

In the present study, we analyzed the pattern of changes in peritoneal transport status over time in our PD patients. We also investigated the determinants of initial peritoneal transport status and its relevance with the prognostic factors.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

This clinical study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and was approved by the Medical Ethics Committee of the Chang Gung Memorial Hospital (CGMH), Taipei.

This was a single-center observation cohort study that included 551 fresh uremic patients who commenced continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) in CGMH from January 1994 to December 2004. Patients that were ≥ 18 years of age and who underwent PD for more than 3 months were included. None of the patients had performed the test within the 2 months after diagnosis of peritonitis. Baseline data, including age, sex, body weight, body height, cause of end-stage renal disease, presence of diabetes mellitus (DM), and other comorbid diseases, were collected. Baseline PET was performed, using the 4 h standard method, within 3 months of commencing CAPD and repeated at least yearly or when changes were suspected.

The evaluation of comorbid diseases was done according to the categories used by Chung et al.³ Cardiovascular diseases included previous and present history of congestive heart failure, ischemic heart disease, or cerebrovascular disease. Respiratory diseases were defined as active tuberculosis, chronic lung disease, or asthma attacks. Liver diseases included persistently elevated serum glutamic-pyruvic transaminase and serum glutamic-oxaloacetic transaminase or cirrhosis defined by abdominal echo and clinical symptoms. Systemic diseases included DM and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). The comorbidity was graded by the Davies index.¹⁴ The comorbidity score of each patient was the number of comorbid diseases; grade 0 (low risk) is a 0 score, grade 1 (medium risk) is a score of 1–2, and grade 2 (high risk) is a score of ≥ 3 .

Patients were categorized into one of the four peritoneal transport types according to the 4 h dialysate-to-plasma ratio of creatinine on the initial PET defined by Twardowski.¹ Briefly, a 4 h dwell study was performed using a 2 L exchange with a 2.27% glucose solution. We measured dialysate glucose and creatinine

levels at 0, 2, and 4 h, and plasma glucose and creatinine levels at 2 h. The creatinine values in the dialysate were corrected for glucose interference before further calculation. The dialysate-to-plasma ratio of creatinine (D/P Cr) at 0, 2, and 4 h, the ratio between the glucose level in the dialysate effluent and that in the infused dialysate [(D/D0)G], and the UF volume at 4 h were also calculated.

The 24 h urine and drained dialysate were obtained to calculate the residual renal function (RRF), the weekly normalized creatinine clearance (Ccr), and the normalized whole body urea clearance (Kt/V urea). Both parameters Ccr and Kt/V urea were calculated for the kidney, peritoneum, and kidney + peritoneum.

Serum albumin concentration, the percentage of lean body mass (%LBM), and normalized protein equivalent of total nitrogen appearance (nPNA) were used as markers of nutrition. Serum albumin was determined by the bromocresol green method. The %LBM was determined from creatinine kinetics according to Forbes and Bruining and normalized to body weight.¹⁵ The protein equivalent of nitrogen appearance (PNA) was derived from the urea generation rate using the formula proposed by Bergstrom et al. and was normalized to the ideal body weight of the patients.¹⁶

Finally, all PET reports of the 551 patients in this observation period were collected and longitudinal changes in peritoneal transport status were analyzed. The endpoint of the study was the patient status (dead or alive) or termination of the follow-up period (December 2006). Data for patients who had transferred to hemodialysis or who had received renal transplantation were censored.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Results are expressed as mean \pm SD for continuous data and as frequencies and percentages for categorical data. The difference in clinical characteristics between different transporter groups was evaluated by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) using the Bonferroni test for post hoc analysis. Chi-square test or Fisher's exact test was used to compare the nominal variables between different transporter groups. This investigation utilized simple linear regression (SLR) analysis for demographic, biochemical, and other variables to identify factors associated with the peritoneal transport status. Significant factors were subjected to a multiple linear regression analysis with a backward-stepwise selection procedure to identify factors that are independent determinants of peritoneal transport status.

Survival analysis was done using the Kaplan–Meier method. A log-rank was used to compare the different survival curves. The Cox proportional hazard model

was used to identify factors determining patient mortality. The major statistics were calculated on a personal computer using SPSS (version 16.0). Significance was considered at a p value of <0.05 .

RESULTS

Clinical characteristics of the four transport groups

A total of 551 patients were studied, and there was a preponderance of female patients (61.5%). The mean age of the patients at the start of PD was 48.2 ± 14.5 years. The primary diagnosis of renal failure was chronic glomerulonephritis ($n = 130$, 23.6%), DM nephropathy ($n = 98$, 17.8%), hypertension ($n = 64$, 11.6%), small kidneys/unknown ($n = 193$, 35.0%), SLE ($n = 18$, 3.3%), and other causes ($n = 48$, 8.7%). The initial PET was performed at a mean of 57.5 ± 21.5 days from the start of PD.

When patients were categorized by their baseline peritoneal transport status, 52 patients (9.4%) were classified as high peritoneal transporters (H group), 271 patients (49.2%) as high-average transporters (HA group), 204 patients (37%) as low-average transporters (LA group), and 24 patients (4.4%) as low transporters (L group). The mean D/P Cr was 0.86 ± 0.05 , 0.71 ± 0.04 , 0.59 ± 0.04 , and 0.43 ± 0.06 for the H, HA, LA, and L groups, respectively.

The main characteristics according to the peritoneal transport status are summarized in Table 1. Patients in H group were older than those in LA group with no difference when compared to other groups. The proportion of male patients in H group was more than those in L group but not significantly different when compared with HA and LA groups. We observed lower serum Cr, albumin, and net drained volume in H group. The presence of DM and comorbidity in all groups were similar. Although nPNA was statistically different among all groups ($p = 0.045$), we did not find

TABLE 1. Baseline characteristics of the patients according to peritoneal transport type ($n = 551$).

Variable	L ($n = 24$)	LA ($n = 204$)	HA ($n = 271$)	H ($n = 52$)	p -Value
Age	46.7 ± 13.8	46.4 ± 14.5	48.7 ± 14.3	53.1 ± 14.7	0.022 ^a
Men [n (%)]	3 (12.5)	65 (31.9)	121 (44.6)	23 (44.2)	0.001 ^{b,c}
Body weight (kg)	50.5 ± 7.90	55.0 ± 9.98	55.9 ± 10.36	54.2 ± 9.78	NS
BMI (kg/m^2)	20.7 ± 2.5	21.9 ± 3.5	21.8 ± 3.3	21.7 ± 3.5	NS
Prevalence of DM [n (%)]	3 (12.5)	32 (15.7)	51 (18.8)	12 (23.1)	NS
Comorbidity index	0.29 ± 0.62	0.35 ± 0.61	0.42 ± 0.66	0.46 ± 0.67	NS
Serum Cr (mg/dL)	11.73 ± 2.88	9.80 ± 3.03	9.21 ± 2.82	8.53 ± 2.64	<0.001 ^{a,b}
Serum BUN (mg/dL)	67.0 ± 22.8	60.6 ± 17.0	60.0 ± 17.9	59.2 ± 19.1	NS
Serum albumin (g/dL)	4.25 ± 0.62	4.03 ± 0.48	3.78 ± 0.45	3.41 ± 0.58	<0.001 ^d
Net drained volume (mL)	346.7 ± 229.6	331.3 ± 142.3	248.1 ± 167.2	174.4 ± 175.7	<0.001 ^d
nPNA (g/kg/day)	1.23 ± 0.36	1.21 ± 0.26	1.15 ± 0.27	1.13 ± 0.24	0.045 ^e
%LBM	69.3 ± 12.1	74.0 ± 13.6	73.3 ± 13.3	71.9 ± 14.3	NS
Kt/V peritoneum	1.80 ± 0.40	1.85 ± 0.34	1.73 ± 0.37	1.69 ± 0.32	0.001 ^{a,c}
Kt/V kidney	0.38 ± 0.46	0.62 ± 0.49	0.61 ± 0.45	0.63 ± 0.49	NS
Kt/V total	2.18 ± 0.64	2.47 ± 0.56	2.34 ± 0.50	2.33 ± 0.55	NS
RRF (mL/min)	1.52 ± 1.56	3.03 ± 2.52	3.21 ± 2.51	3.06 ± 2.19	0.015 ^f

Notes: Difference between transport categories was determined by ANOVA or chi-square test, values are presented as mean \pm SD.

H, high peritoneal transport status; HA, high-average peritoneal transport status; LA, low-average peritoneal transport status; L, low peritoneal transport status; NS, not significant ($p > 0.05$); BMI, body mass index; DM, diabetes mellitus; BUN, blood urea nitrogen; nPNA, normalized protein nitrogen appearance; %LBM, percentage of lean body mass; Kt/V , normalized whole body clearance; RRF, residual renal function.

^a $p < 0.05$ LA vs. H.

^b $p < 0.05$ L vs. LA, HA, H.

^c $p < 0.05$ LA vs. HA.

^d $p < 0.05$ H vs. HA, LA, L; HA vs. LA, L.

^eNo significant difference between each transport status.

^f $p < 0.05$ L vs. LA, HA.

a significant difference between each transport status using the Bonferroni test for post hoc analysis. Compared with H group and HA group, the LA group had higher peritoneal clearance as determined from the Kt/V value. The RRF was low in the L group but did not reach statistical significance when compared to the H group. There was no statistical difference among the four transport groups with regard to body weight, body mass index, kidney and total weekly Kt/V , and %LBM.

SLR analysis of variables related to D/P Cr revealed that age, sex, nPNA, and RRF were associated with D/P Cr. After adjusting for the above-mentioned significant variables via backward-stepwise multiple linear regression analysis, only age and sex were determinants of the initial peritoneal transport status (Table 2).

Centripetal change of peritoneal transport status

The analysis of longitudinal changes in the solute transport status over time is shown in Figure 1. We did

not observe a change in D/P Cr over time among the entire study population. We further assessed the longitudinal changes in the solute transport status over time according to the baseline peritoneal transport status (Figure 2). Patients with an initially high peritoneal transport status had a trend toward negative changes, while those with an initially low status had positive changes, which showed a centripetal pattern.

Clinical outcome and predictors of patient survival

During the study period from January 1994 to December 2006, there were 107 (19.4%) deaths. The average duration of the study follow-up was 45.4 ± 29.4 months. The causes of death were peritonitis (12.1%), nonperitonitis infection (41.1%), cardiovascular disease (25.2%), malignancy (1.9%), others (7.5%), and unknown (12.1%).

Among the remaining study patients, 239 patients (43.4%) were still on PD, 126 patients (22.9%) changed to hemodialysis, 46 patients (8.3%) received renal transplantation, and 32 patients (5.8%) had

TABLE 2. Determinants of baseline D/P Cr in patients on peritoneal dialysis.

	Simple linear regression r	p -Value	Multiple linear regression β coefficient \pm SE	p -Value
Age (years)	0.112	0.008	0.108 ± 0.08	0.01
Male	0.169	<0.001	0.165 ± 0.009	<0.001
Diabetes mellitus	0.059	NS		
Comorbidity index	0.06	NS		
nPNA	-0.093	0.029		
%LBM	0.008	NS		
Kt/V kidney	0.073	0.085	0.071 ± 0.009	0.088
RRF	0.092	0.03		
BMI	0.029	NS		
BSA	0.075	0.077		

Notes: NS, not significant ($p > 0.1$); nPNA, normalized protein nitrogen appearance; %LBM, percentage of lean body mass; RRF, residual renal function; BMI, body mass index; BSA, body surface area.

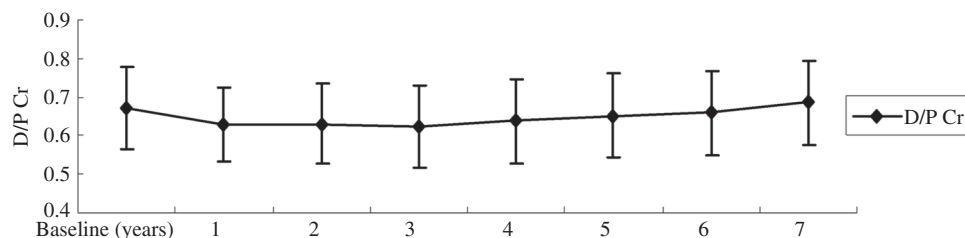


FIGURE 1. Longitudinal values of D/P creatinine.

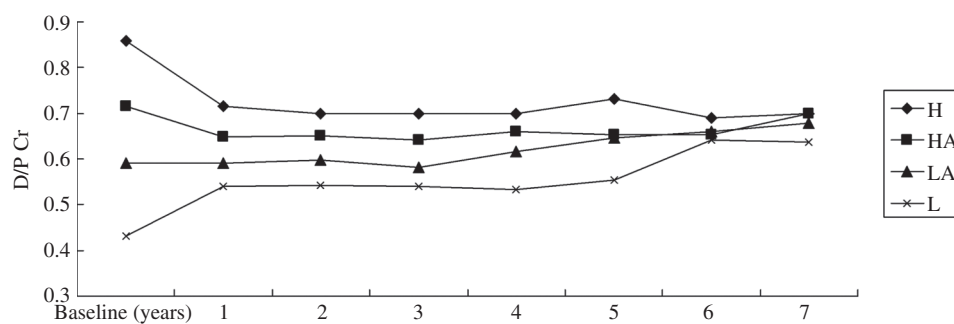
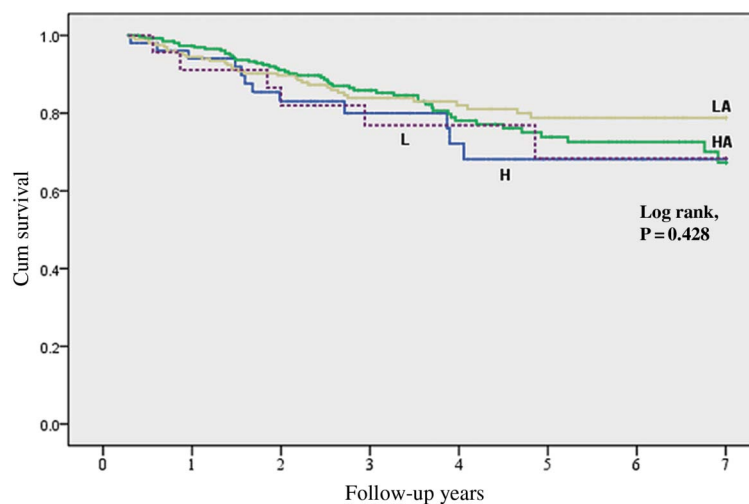


FIGURE 2. Longitudinal values of D/P creatinine in patients with initial different peritoneal transport status.



Number of patients exposed to risk at the time point (years):

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
H	51	42.5	29.0	22.0	16.0	11.5	7.0	3.5
HA	263	232.0	174.0	118.5	78.5	51.0	31.5	18.5
LA	200	175.5	138.5	97.5	75.5	59.0	43.0	29
L	23	20.0	18.0	14.5	11.0	6.5	5.5	4.0

FIGURE 3. Patient survival curves. L, low transporter; LA, low-average transporter; HA, high-average transporter; H, high transporter.

been transferred to other dialysis units. Of the 126 patients who transferred to hemodialysis, 9 patients were in the H group ($n = 52$, 7.1%), 55 patients were in the HA group ($n = 271$, 43.7%), 54 patients were in the LA group ($n = 204$, 42.9%), and 8 patients were in the L group ($n = 24$, 33.3%). High transport status had the least patient to transfer to HD.

Of the 107 patients who died, 13 patients were in the H group ($n = 52$, 25.0%), 53 patients were in the HA group ($n = 271$, 19.6%), 35 patients were in the LA group ($n = 204$, 17.2%), and 6 patients were in the L group ($n = 24$, 25%). At the end of 1, 4, and 7 years, actuarial patient survival rates, respectively, were 94, 73, and 68% in the H group; 97, 78, and 68% in the HA group; 94.5, 82, and 78% in the LA group; 91, 77,

and 70% in the L group. Kaplan–Meier analysis revealed that there was no significant difference in the cumulative patient survival rate between the groups ($p = 0.428$, Figure 3).

Predictors of mortality and relative risk (RR) in the 551 patients are shown in Table 3. Age, increased comorbidity index, decreased serum Cr and albumin levels, lower nPNA, and %LBM at baseline were associated with a significant reduction in patient survival in the univariate analysis. Gender, net drained volume, and peritoneal transport rate, which were analyzed as continuous variables (D/P Cr), were not prognostic factors for long-term mortality in PD patients. Cox-multivariate analysis showed that only age (RR = 1.06, CI: 1.05–1.08, $p < 0.001$), comorbidity index

TABLE 3. Cox regression analysis of the overall risk of all-cause mortality according to baseline prognostic factors in maintenance PD patients ($n = 551$).

Variable	Univariate hazard analysis	<i>p</i>	Multivariate hazard analysis	<i>p</i>
	Relative risk (95% CI)		Relative risk (95% CI)	
Age (Y/O)	1.09 (1.08–1.11)	<0.001	1.06 (1.05–1.08)	<0.001
Male	1.13 (0.76–1.67)	0.531		
DM	8.34 (5.63–12.35)	<0.001		
Comorbidity index	4.44 (3.54–5.57)	<0.001	2.31 (1.76–3.03)	<0.001
Serum Cr (mg/dL)	0.82 (0.75–0.89)	<0.001		
Serum albumin	0.20 (0.15–0.28)	<0.001	0.58 (0.39–0.87)	0.008
nPNA	0.24 (0.11–0.51)	<0.001		
%LBM	0.92 (0.91–0.94)	<0.001	0.97 (0.96–0.99)	0.008
D4/P4 Cr	2.02 (0.34–12.0)	0.44		
Net drained volume	1.00 (0.99–1.01)	0.902		
$K-Kt/V$ (urea/week)	0.41 (0.25–0.67)	<0.001		
$T-Kt/V$ (urea/week)	0.47 (0.31–0.70)	<0.001		
RRF (mL/min)	0.927 (0.85–1.01)	0.084		

Notes: DM, diabetes mellitus; nPNA, normalized protein nitrogen appearance; %LBM, percentage of lean body mass; D4/P4 Cr, dialysate-to-plasma creatinine ratio at 4 h; RRF, residual renal function.

(RR = 2.31, CI: 1.76–3.03, $p < 0.001$), serum albumin (RR = 0.58, CI: 0.39–0.87, $p = 0.008$), and %LBM (RR = 0.97, CI: 0.96–0.99, $p = 0.008$) were independent predictors of mortality.

DISCUSSION

Our study demonstrated that initial peritoneal membrane permeability, analyzed as either a categorical variable (H, HA, LA, and L transport status) or a continuous variable (D/P Cr), was not a risk factor for short-term or long-term mortality in PD patients. The main predictors of long-term mortality in our study were age, comorbidity index, serum albumin, and %LBM.

In our analysis, the determinant of a high initial peritoneal transport status was age and sex. The relation between age and transport rate was demonstrated in several studies^{2,3,14}; the reason for this is not clear and some reports have suggested a collinear relationship with comorbid disease.¹⁴ The finding of a higher proportion of male patients in the high transporter group was also similar to the findings of some earlier investigations.^{14,17,18} The reason for this is also undetermined. Chung et al.¹⁷ reported a correlation with more comorbid diseases in male patients. However, contrary to the finding of previous studies, the presence

of DM and comorbid diseases was not associated with the high transport status in our study. Further study on inflammation state or uremic toxin at the start of PD may solve this question in our PD patients.

Our finding on the relationship between the peritoneal transport status and patient survival was similar to some of the findings reported earlier.^{7–10,19} Recently, Yang et al.²⁰ also demonstrated that the actuarial patient survival rates at the end of 1, 3, and 5 years were not significantly different among the different transport groups ($p = 0.780$). However, several studies suggested a relationship between higher peritoneal transport rates and poor patient survival.^{2–4} The largest examination to date is a prospective, multicenter study by Rumpsfeld et al., which included 3702 incident PD patients.⁴ Nevertheless, in their subgroup analysis, according to the type of PD therapy prescribed, a high transport status was not an independent predictor of mortality for patients who received automated peritoneal dialysis (APD). These results are in accordance with the European Automated PD Outcome Study (EAPOS),⁹ which found that survival was not influenced by the peritoneal transport status in 177 anuric patients who received APD. One possible explanation for these results is that the APD may possibly eliminate the clinical consequence of an inadequate UF due to a high transport status. As such, these results suggested that the poor outcome associated with a high

transport status may relate more to fluid overload over time rather than a high transport status per se.

In our cohort study, the penetration rate of APD is 13.4% and the number of patients on APD in H group was least ($n = 1$, 1.9%), making this very unlikely to be a significant confounding factor. This result in combination with the present study allows consideration of the possibility that the longitudinal change in the peritoneal transport status may be the reason for the favorable outcome in our PD patients with a high baseline transport status. In a retrospective, 7-year cohort study, Hung et al. found that patients with a higher initial D/P Cr tended to have larger decreases in their final D/P Cr and vice versa.¹² Similarly, Raj et al. also observed that there was a tendency for the extreme transport categories to move to the average group.²¹ Although some studies had different results on the longitudinal change of peritoneal membrane properties,^{5,22} our finding is consistent with this centripetal pattern. The mechanisms that cause the change in the peritoneal permeability over time are still unknown. Wong et al. showed the observed centripetal change in D/P Cr is likely a bias observation reflecting a “regression toward mean” phenomenon without physiologic relevance.¹³ Whether the observed change has any biological effect is difficult to define and some investigators considered that both phenomena are in fact occurring.^{12,14} It has been recognized that the peritoneal membrane permeability may alter in several clinical conditions such as DM, peritonitis, inflammation states, and other treatment-related factors. Whether the change in our PD patients is related to correction of the uremia and inflammation state needs to be demonstrated in the future.

The clinical outcome of PD may be influenced by many factors other than the peritoneal transport status. In our study, the two most significant predictors among these were serum albumin (RR = 0.58, CI: 0.39–0.87, $p = 0.008$) and comorbidity index (RR = 2.31, CI: 1.76–3.03, $p < 0.001$). Lower serum albumin has long been regarded as a significant risk factor of poor outcome in PD patients.^{2,6,19,23–25} In addition to its association with malnutrition, a lower serum albumin level was correlated with other clinical conditions, for example, more comorbidities, inflammation state, and fluid overload, which are, in fact, increasing mortality.^{7,19,26} Not surprisingly, the presence of comorbidity at commencement of PD was a significant predictor of long-term mortality in our study population. It has been suggested that a high transport status and low serum albumin are the common consequences of an underlying comorbidity, which may be the real cause of the poor outcome.²⁷

It must be taken into consideration that some of these above-mentioned determinants interact with each other. It has been argued that a parameter like albumin should not be included in the survival analysis

as it is not a true baseline value, but rather a possible consequence of high peritoneal transport status.¹⁴ However, D/P Cr is still not a risk factor of long-term mortality upon alternative Cox regression analysis, excluding either serum albumin or %LBM in our study (data not shown).

There are several limitations in this study. First, the lack of relationship between transporter status and mortality as a consequence of “regression toward mean” may only be a survival bias observed in patients who survived long enough to have a change in their transporter status. However, transport status, which was analyzed as continuous variables (D/P Cr), was not a prognostic factor for short-term mortality (in the first year) in the univariate ($p = 0.593$) and multivariate analysis ($p = 0.195$). Second, in our study, the proportion of female patients was high (61.5%), and the mean age was 48.2 ± 14.5 years. It is a relatively distinct group as compared to groups in several previous large studies. Another characteristic of our study group was that the incidence of DM was lower than that reported previously, for example, the CANUSA study² and data from Rumpsfeld et al.⁴ (17.8 vs. 30.6% and 38.1%, respectively). Because the study was conducted at a single center and the analysis was of retrospective nature, the potential of selection bias is present. Third, deaths within a period of time after conversion to long-term hemodialysis were not included in our analysis, which might be an indirect consequence of PD. Fourth, the peritoneal transport status is a time-dependent covariable and using the baseline D/P Cr in the Cox regression analysis could not answer the real impact of average peritoneal transport status on patient mortality, thus warranting further study.

In conclusion, in our PD patients, the initial peritoneal transport status was not a determinant factor of long-term mortality. This result indicated that a high baseline peritoneal transport status may not be regarded as a critical problem as was previously thought. Instead, low serum albumin and a higher comorbidity index are a concern. Further investigations on the mechanisms underlying changes in the peritoneal transport over time are needed.

Declaration of interest: The authors report no conflicts of interest. The authors alone are responsible for the content and writing of this paper.

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