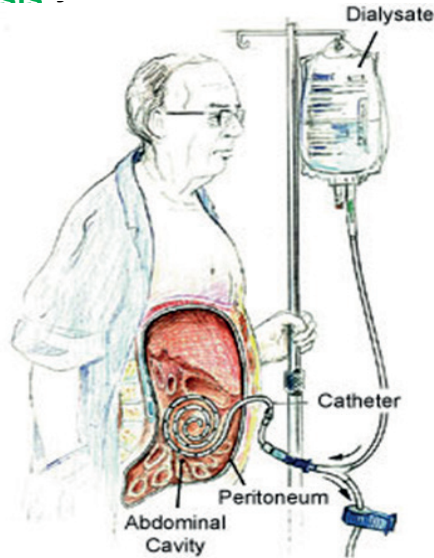


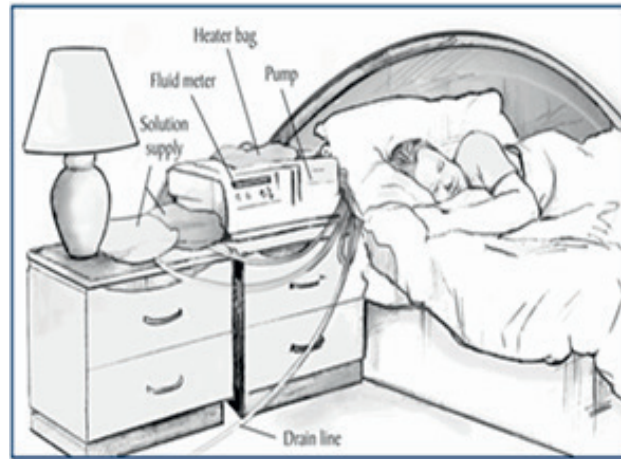
## Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis



Peritoneal dialysis uses the peritoneum in a person's abdomen as the membrane through which fluid and dissolved substances are exchanged with the blood. Benefits over haemodialysis include greater flexibility and better tolerability in those with significant heart disease. The dialysate fluid that is instilled into the abdominal cavity typically contains sodium chloride, lactate or bicarbonate and a high percentage of glucose to ensure hyperosmolarity. The amount of dialysis that occurs depends on the volume of the dwell, the regularity of the exchange and the concentration of the fluid. CAPD typically involves 4 manual exchanges a day, each of 2 litres of PD fluid.

Complications may include peritonitis, hernias, high blood sugar levels, constipation, bleeding in the abdomen, and blockage of the catheter. PD is not possible in those with significant prior abdominal surgery or inflammatory bowel disease.

## Automated Peritoneal Dialysis



For APD the patient dialyses overnight for 5-7 days each week, with APD cycles of between 3 and 10 dwells per night, using 15-20 litres of dialysis fluid. APD may have psychosocial advantages for younger patients and those who are employed or pursuing an education.

## Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy Continuous Haemofiltration (CVVH)

Blood passed under pressure down one side of a highly permeable membrane. Water and solutes are removed by convection, driven by the pressure gradient.

## Continuous Haemodiafiltration (CVVHD)

Blood is passed along one side of a semi-permeable membrane. Crystalloid solution is pumped along other side of membrane in opposite direction. Solute move across membrane by *convection & diffusion* at rate depending on concentration gradient & molecular size.

- Can be done anywhere as no specialist plumbing required
- Much less aggressive than haemodialysis  
Better for haemodynamically unstable patients.
- Usually employed in the acute situation, eg in the management of AKI on ICU

# A Handy Guide to Dialysis



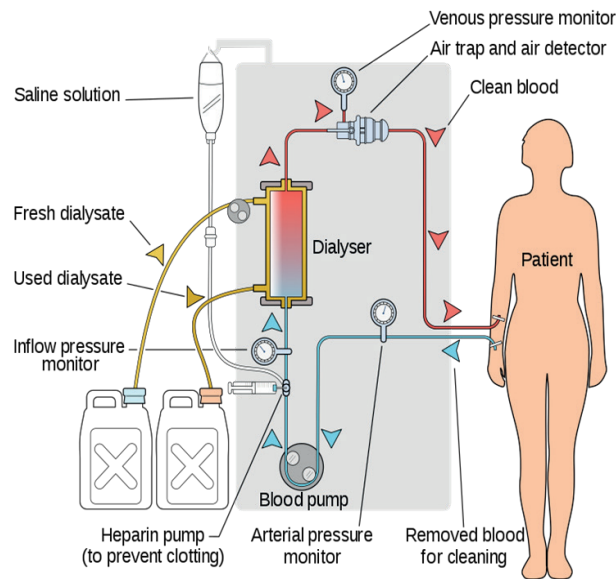
The kidneys have an important role in maintaining health. When the person is healthy, the kidneys maintain the body's internal equilibrium of water and minerals (sodium, potassium, chloride, calcium, phosphorus, magnesium and sulfate). The acidic metabolism end-products that the body cannot get rid of via respiration are also excreted through the kidneys. The kidneys also function as a part of the endocrine system, producing erythropoietin, calcitriol and renin. Erythropoietin is involved in the production of red blood cells and calcitriol plays a role in bone formation. Dialysis is an imperfect treatment to replace kidney function because it does not correct the compromised endocrine functions of the kidney. Dialysis treatments replace some of these functions through diffusion (waste removal) and ultrafiltration (fluid removal).

[www.renalpharmacy.org.uk](http://www.renalpharmacy.org.uk)

## Types of Dialysis

- Intermittent Haemodialysis / Haemodiafiltration
- Continuous Haemofiltration / Haemodiafiltration
- Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis
- Automated Peritoneal Dialysis

## Intermittent Haemodialysis



Conventional haemodialysis is usually done three times per week, for about 3–5 hours for each treatment. Blood is passed along one side of a semi-permeable membrane. Crystalloid solution is pumped along the other side of the membrane in the opposite direction. Solutes move across the membrane by convection & diffusion at rates depending on the concentration gradient and molecular size. During dialysis, the patient's blood is drawn out through a dialysis catheter at a rate of 200–400 mL/min. The blood is then pumped through the dialysis filter, and after processing, is pumped back into the patient's bloodstream. During the treatment, the patient's entire blood volume (about 5 litres) circulates through the machine every 15 minutes.

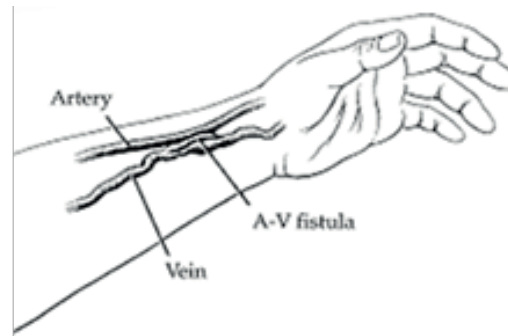
The dialyser, or artificial kidney, is a cylindrical bundle of hollow fibres, whose walls are composed of semi-permeable membrane, these fibres are anchored into a clear plastic cylindrical shell. The blood port at each end of the cylinder communicates with each end of the bundle of hollow fibres. This forms the "blood compartment" of the dialyser. The space around the hollow fibres is the "dialysate compartment." Blood is pumped through this bundle of very thin capillary-like tubes, and the dialysate is pumped through the space surrounding the fibres. Pressure gradients are applied to move fluid from the blood to the dialysate compartment.

Injection ports on the venous return side of the dialysis circuit allow for the administration of intravenous drugs during dialysis.

## Dialysis Access

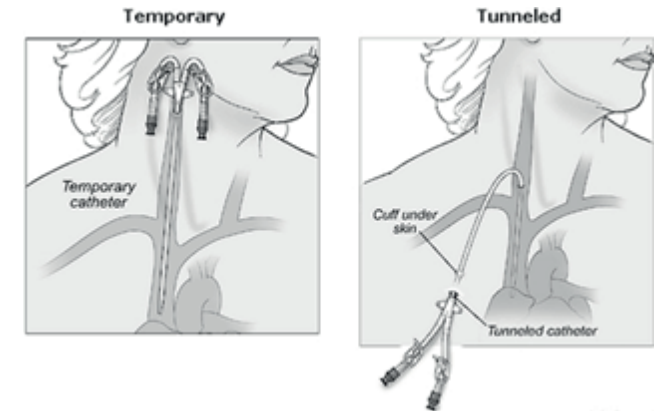
Two primary methods are used to gain access to the blood for haemodialysis: an intravenous catheter, and an arteriovenous fistula

## AV Fistula



A vein in the arm is surgically attached to an artery. Both the artery and the vein dilate and elongate in response to the greater blood flow, but the vein dilates more and becomes "arterialised". When the vein is large enough to allow cannulation, the fistula is defined as "mature".

## Central Venous Catheters



- Usually inserted into jugular vein or femoral vein
- Temporary lines limited duration (< 2 weeks)
- Permanent lines are usually cuffed and tunneled

## Drug removal during dialysis

This can be affected by:

- The properties of the medication
- The type of dialysis membrane – i.e. is it a high flux or low flux membrane?
- The Renal Drug Database provides information on drug removal by different types of dialysis

**Contact the RPG Secretariat at:-**  
UK Renal Pharmacy Group  
26 Oriental Road,  
Woking,  
Surrey,  
GU22 7AW, UK.  
Tel: 01483 724472.  
e-mail: [enquiries@renalpharmacy.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@renalpharmacy.org.uk)