The Influence of DOPPS on Health Policy and Clinical Management of End-Stage Renal Disease

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The Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study (DOPPS) is a multinational prospective study of nationally representative hemodialysis patients in 12 countries worldwide. Already in its 10th year, its primary goal is to investigate hemodialysis practices, global variations in these practices, and how these impact on patient outcomes. First, an overview of the DOPPS study design, data elements and methodology will be described. Subsequently, practices that have been associated with better outcomes, as well as the degree of deviation in actual practice from internationally recognized guidelines to hemodialysis care in 12 countries around the world will be presented. In addition, whether differences in outcomes are attributed to genetic differences as opposed to practice patterns will be discussed. For kidney disease, in particular, there is an extensive body of literature that documents the disproportionate burden of disease, as well as the access to and quality of care for the largest minority groups in the United States as compared to the Caucasian population. Data from the Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study will be used to explore the contributions of race/ethnicity and access to care/quality of care in determining outcomes of renal disease. Finally, this talk will explain how DOPPS findings have been used by international decision makers to modify health policy.

Background about Dr. Ramirez

Sylvia Ramirez, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., is the Vice President of Global Research and Development at URREA with responsibilities including the advancement of international research initiatives in dialysis, pediatric transplantation, and health policy. Dr. Ramirez is a Pediatric Nephrologist and population epidemiologist with over 15 years of pediatric clinical care, nephrology, and transplant experience both in the United States and internationally. She also has over 6 years of experience in developing, conducting, and analyzing population-based research studies. Dr. Ramirez's international expertise in the fields of renal disease prevention and population-based programs was further enhanced after establishing a national kidney disease, diabetes, and hypertension screening and prevention program for both the adult and pediatric populations in Singapore.