
- **Aims:**
  In the general population, women have a survival advantage (they live longer) than men. However in the dialysis population, females and males have similar survival chances for all cause mortality. In this study the authors attempted to understand the reasons for this decrease in survival advantage.

- **Methods:**
  This was a prospective observational cohort study of 1577 patients across 38 Dutch dialysis centres, of dialysis patients with 5 years of follow-up. These patients all had full data pertaining to CVD risk profile. Subjects were assessed based on their CVD risk factors at the start of dialysis treatment, and it was investigated to see if there was any association with mortality in men and women.

- **Results:**
  Men were found more commonly to be smokers, and to have CVD co-morbidity at the onset of dialysis, whereas women more often had diabetes. The cohort was followed up for 5 years, in which time 593 patients died. 288 of the deaths were attributed to CVD. No difference in mortality risk was demonstrated between men and women and the mortality risk associated with the presence of hypertension, obesity or high cholesterol did not differ between men and women. However, women with diabetes were found to have a statistically significant increased risk of mortality compared to their male counterparts and mortality was 3 times higher in female patients with diabetes, than in female patients without diabetes. Men with diabetes had a 2-fold higher mortality compared to men without diabetes.

- **Discussion:**
  The outcomes of the study could be seen as somewhat surprising; in that despite having fewer CVD co-morbidities at the start of dialysis, women receiving dialysis have the same mortality as men. This may be partly due to the increased prevalence of diabetes in the female dialysis population, but the reasons for this are not altogether clear.