## Replacement of Renal Function by Dialysis: A Comprehensive Guide

Dialysis is a life-saving treatment that helps people with kidney failure live longer and healthier lives. When your kidneys fail, they can no longer filter waste products and excess fluid from your blood. Dialysis takes over this function, allowing you to remove waste and fluids from your body and keep your blood chemistry in balance.

There are two main types of dialysis: hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. Hemodialysis is performed in a dialysis center, where a machine filters your blood through a dialyzer. Peritoneal dialysis is performed at home, where a special solution is placed in your abdomen and then drained out, taking waste products and fluids with it.

Both hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis have their own advantages and disadvantages. Your doctor will work with you to choose the best treatment for you based on your individual needs and preferences.



## Replacement of Renal Function by Dialysis by Naomi Novik

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Hemodialysis is the most common type of dialysis. It is performed in a dialysis center, where a machine filters your blood through a dialyzer. The dialyzer is a special filter that removes waste products and excess fluid from your blood.

Hemodialysis is typically performed three times per week, for four to six hours each session. During hemodialysis, you will be connected to the dialysis machine by two needles that are inserted into your arm. The needles are connected to the dialyzer, which filters your blood and returns it to your body.

Hemodialysis can be a safe and effective treatment for kidney failure. However, it can also have some side effects, such as fatigue, muscle cramps, and nausea.

Peritoneal dialysis is another type of dialysis that can be performed at home. It is a less common type of dialysis, but it can be a good option for people who want more flexibility and control over their treatment.

Peritoneal dialysis uses the lining of your abdomen (the peritoneum) as a filter to remove waste products and excess fluid from your blood. A special solution is placed in your abdomen through a catheter, and then drained out after a few hours.

Peritoneal dialysis can be performed either manually or with the help of a machine. Manual peritoneal dialysis requires you to exchange the dialysis solution yourself, while machine-assisted peritoneal dialysis uses a machine to do the exchanges.

Peritoneal dialysis can be a safe and effective treatment for kidney failure. However, it can also have some side effects, such as abdominal pain, constipation, and hernias.

The best dialysis treatment for you will depend on your individual needs and preferences. Your doctor will work with you to choose the treatment that is right for you based on factors such as your age, health, lifestyle, and financial situation.

Here are some things to consider when choosing a dialysis treatment:

- Convenience: Hemodialysis is typically performed in a dialysis center, while peritoneal dialysis can be performed at home. If you prefer the convenience of being able to dialyze at home, peritoneal dialysis may be a good option for you.
- Flexibility: Hemodialysis is typically performed on a fixed schedule, while peritoneal dialysis can be more flexible. If you have a busy schedule or want to be able to travel, peritoneal dialysis may be a good option for you.
- Side effects: Both hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis can have side effects. The side effects of hemodialysis are typically more common, but they are usually less severe than the side effects of peritoneal dialysis.
- Cost: The cost of dialysis can vary depending on the type of treatment and the location of the dialysis center. Hemodialysis is typically more expensive than peritoneal dialysis.

Dialysis is a life-saving treatment for kidney failure. There are two main types of dialysis: hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. Your doctor will work with you to choose the best treatment for you based on your individual needs and preferences.

If you have kidney failure, dialysis can help you live a longer and healthier life. Talk to your doctor about dialysis today to learn more about your treatment options.

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