OSU MEDICAL CENTER OFFERS DIALYSIS AT HOME, OVERNIGHT

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Patients suffering from chronic kidney failure, and who are doing well with their current dialysis therapy, can receive an alternative dialysis treatment in their own home, in their own bed, while they sleep.

“It’s really a quality of life issue for patients who have renal failure,” said Dr. William Bay, director of renal dialysis at The Ohio State University Medical Center. “These patients would typically have to go to an outpatient dialysis clinic during the day to receive their dialysis treatments three times a week for up to four hours at a time. That’s time they could be spending at work, at school, with their families or at social activities.”

Bay said with nocturnal dialysis patients can receive their treatments for up to eight hours every other night while they are sleeping – and patients are getting better results with prolonged dialysis. “Patients are finding that, because they are able to dialyze for longer periods of time, they are having fewer negative side effects from the disease, and they are feeling more energetic during the day and actually sleeping better at night.”

The Fresenius Medical Care dialysis center, located at OSU Medical Center, offers a nocturnal dialysis treatment in a clinical setting before patients begin to dialyze at home to ensure that patients are stable while receiving overnight treatments, said Bay. Patients who select nocturnal home dialysis and their caregivers will receive six to eight weeks of training in the dialysis center on how to use the dialysis system in their homes at night, he said.

While at home, patients on overnight dialysis are monitored by a trained nurse using computer Internet technology developed by Fresenius Medical Care, the largest
provider of dialysis worldwide. And if there is a problem with their dialysis treatment, the nurse will call the patient or caregiver and tell them what they need to do to correct the problem, Bay said.

"Nocturnal dialysis in the home helps patients take back the time that they would lose if they had to come in for treatments," said Bay.

Chronic renal failure occurs in two out of every 10,000 people and is a slow and gradual loss of the ability of the kidneys to filter waste products from the blood and excrete them from the body.

Kidney failure can be the result of any disease that causes progressive damage to the kidneys, such as hypertension or diabetes. Dialysis and kidney transplants are the only effective treatments available for those with renal failure. Dialysis cleans and filters the blood in place of a healthy kidney.

The Ohio State University Medical Center has consistently been named one of America’s best hospitals by US News & World Report. The Medical Center is widely recognized for programs in heart care, cancer, orthopedics, organ transplantation, rehabilitation, women’s services and neuroscience. University Medical Center is the only academic medical center serving central and southern Ohio and cares for 3,000 patients daily.

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