

GUIDELINES FOR THE TREATMENT OF PERITONITIS IN CHILDREN

Peritonitis remains the most significant complication of peritoneal dialysis (PD) during childhood and is the primary reason, other than transplantation, for the termination of PD as a dialytic modality. Despite an accumulated clinical experience of more than two decades and the incorporation of a number of technological improvements in the technique over that span of time, peritonitis rates still exceed 1 infection every 12.0 - 15.0 patient-months in many pediatric centers worldwide. Successful prophylactic measures have been poorly defined for children, and the absence of uniform treatment guidelines makes it likely that some episodes of peritonitis may not be treated in an optimal manner, leading to membrane failure and the need to discontinue PD.

Recognition of this issue prompted the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis (ISPD) to authorize the formation of an international committee of pediatric and adult nephrologists, pediatric dialysis nurses, and representatives from industry to write guidelines dedicated to the topic of pediatric peritonitis. Based on a review of the literature and the combined clinical experience of the committee members, the "Consensus Guidelines for the Treatment of Peritonitis in Pediatric Patients Receiving Peritoneal Dialysis" have been developed and are published in this

issue of *Peritoneal Dialysis International (PDI)*. The pediatric guidelines complement the recently published and updated adult peritonitis treatment recommendations by Keane *et al.* (1). An accompanying manuscript in this issue of *PDI* addresses measures to help prevent peritonitis in children. It is our hope that the information contained in these manuscripts will have a positive impact on the care of children receiving PD, and will stimulate the accumulation of outcome data that will substantiate or lead to modification of the current recommendations.

Personally, I would like to congratulate and thank all of the Committee members for their dedicated efforts toward this end.

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Chairman
Committee on Pediatric Peritonitis Management

REFERENCE

1. Keane WF, Bailie GR, Boeschoten E, Gokal R, Golper TA, Holmes CJ, *et al.* Adult peritoneal dialysis-related peritonitis treatment recommendations: 2000 update. *Perit Dial Int* 2000; 20:396-411.