

Kidney Health Information

Automated Peritoneal Dialysis (APD)

What is it?

Automated Peritoneal Dialysis is sometimes known as Continuous Cycling Peritoneal Dialysis (CCPD).

It works in the same way as Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD). The peritoneal membrane filters the waste and excess into the dialysis solution. The difference is that fluid exchanges are all done at night, leaving the daytime free.

APD machines have built-in safety and warning devices. Some models have adjustable fluid volume control.

The CAPD routine needs to be well established and each patient will need a week or two to learn how to manage APD at home.

How does APD work?

- Dialysis takes place at night, during sleep, over 8–10 hours.
- The machine measures the fluids needed for each exchange and times the delivery of this carefully.
- The peritoneal cavity is filled with solution automatically
- The waste solution is drained automatically.
- The last 'fill' of fluid is kept in the abdomen during the day.
- There is a disconnection routine in the mornings and a connection routine last thing at night.
- Newer machines have programmable data cards – prescribed treatment details can be programmed onto this and data from each dialysis session can be captured. A health professional can access this remotely by modem/broadband; alternatively the data can be accessed via a disc.

- The machines are the size of a small wheeled suitcase and are easily portable.
- Fluid exchanges not usually needed during the day.
- Apart from the machine there will still be practical issues of storage and disposal of used supplies.

Finding out more

Ask the medical and nursing staff at the nearest renal unit about APD. Renal nurses that work in the 'community' will be especially familiar with APD.

For patient experiences of APD, ask at the renal unit for the nearest patient support group. They should be able to put you in touch with someone using this form of therapy.

<http://www.kidneypatientguide.org.uk/site/pd.php>

Visit this animated website for an explanation of Peritoneal Dialysis and Automated Dialysis.

National Kidney Federation

Telephone 0845 601 0209

www.kidney.org.uk

http://www.kidney.org/patients/pdf/ff_sp05.pdf

The National Kidney Foundation.

This is general information on CAPD and APD from the American website of the National Kidney Foundation. Please be aware that medical practice and the language used will differ from that used in the UK.

Please be aware that we have made every effort to ensure this information is accurate; however we cannot guarantee that there are no mistakes. Also, the best management plans for individual patients may vary from those outlined here. Only the doctors caring for the patient will be able to advise on this. Please consult your own doctor.

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