NephroCheck

The Urgency of Acute Kidney Injury

Kidneys are crucial

Kidneys perform the life-sustaining function of filtering and returning approximately 200 quarts of fluid to the bloodstream every 24 hours.[1] **Acute kidney injury (AKI) is a sudden loss of kidney function that occurs over hours to days. It can lead to chronic kidney disease, kidney failure requiring dialysis, heart disease or death.[2]**

AKI is a familiar danger

AKI strikes up to 18 percent of all hospitalized patients,[3] 39 percent of all post-operative patients[4] and up to 50 percent of all critically ill patients.[5] It will often occur in hospital patients as a complication of surgery, infection, trauma, sepsis and/or the use of drugs that are toxic to the kidneys.[6] In a study of cardiac surgery patients, 46 percent of the patients who were evaluated developed moderate to severe AKI.[7]

AKI is a costly health burden

It has been estimated that annual U.S. healthcare expenditures for hospital-acquired AKI could exceed $10 billion.[8]

When AKI strikes, everything is two to three times worse

If a patient develops AKI during hospitalization, patient length of stay, cost of care and readmission rates can be at least two times higher than in non-AKI cases.[7,,9] AKI is also associated with a ten-fold increase in hospital mortality rates among post-surgery patients.[3]

AKI is difficult to identify

AKI is silent, lacking signs and symptoms useful for risk assessment.[10] Delays in recognizing AKI can lead to irreversible consequences,[3] but if the condition is recognized and managed in a timely fashion unfavorable patient outcomes can be avoided.[11]

Traditional methods are insufficient for timely diagnosis

The 2009 UK National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcomes and Death (NCEPOD) Adding Insult to Injury study reported that of admitted patients who died from hospital-acquired AKI:

- 31 percent had avoidable AKI;
- 43 percent had an unacceptable recognition delay;
- 54 percent had inadequate risk assessment.[12]

For more information visit NephroCheck.com and The National Kidney Foundation

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