Starting Peritoneal Dialysis

What you will learn:

- What your kidneys do
- Uremia (kidney disease) and its symptoms
- How Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) helps
- The two types of PD: Automated (APD) and Continuous Ambulatory (CAPD)
Now that you’re starting peritoneal dialysis (PD) you may have some questions about how it will help you, what you need to do, and how it will fit into your life. This booklet will give you some important information to get started.

Living with a medical condition like kidney disease can be stressful. It is normal to have mixed feelings about starting a new treatment. Many people have discovered that they value the flexibility and freedom PD provides. With training from your health care team, you can feel confident about doing PD at home, and enjoy the benefits of your PD treatment.

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Kidneys and Uremia (Kidney Disease)

Your kidneys do several very important things for your body. They:¹
• Clean your blood to remove waste and filter out extra water
• Help control your blood pressure
• Trigger your body to make new red blood cells

Uremia is a disease that happens when your body fluids are no longer in balance and waste products build up in your blood. People with uremia may experience some of the following symptoms:²

• Loss of appetite
• Bad taste in your mouth
• Trouble concentrating
• Nausea/vomiting
• Drowsiness
• Sleep disturbances
• Restless legs³

PD is a treatment that helps relieve the symptoms of uremia. If you experience any symptoms of uremia after you have started PD, talk to your nurse or doctor right away.

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How PD Helps

Peritoneal dialysis (PD) is a method for cleaning your blood using a special liquid, called PD solution, that is inserted into your abdomen and then drained out.¹

Benefits of PD²
PD is done in the comfort of your home. With guidance from your PD team, you may be able to set your treatment schedule to match your lifestyle. You can likely do many of the things you enjoy, such as work, going to school, traveling, visiting with friends and family, and many outdoor activities. Unlike hemodialysis, PD does not involve blood and needles during treatment.

Getting ready for PD⁴
In order to move PD solution in and out of your body, you will get a PD catheter and a transfer set.

The catheter is a small, flexible tube that is surgically placed through the wall of your abdomen into a space called the peritoneal cavity. The lining of this cavity is called the peritoneal membrane. PD uses your peritoneal membrane as a filter, along with the PD solution to filter and clean blood. The catheter allows fluid to go in and out of your peritoneal cavity during a PD exchange. The transfer set is attached to your PD catheter and allows you to connect to your other treatment equipment and acts as a closure. The transfer set stays connected to your catheter. It should only be changed by your PD nurse.
3 Steps for a PD Exchange

A PD exchange is the process of moving PD solution in and out of your peritoneal cavity. It involves 3 steps:

1. **Drain**
   Removes old PD solution, along with waste products and extra body fluid.

2. **Fill**
   Replaces it with new PD solution.

3. **Dwell**
   The time when PD solution is in your peritoneal cavity. This is when dialysis takes place.

**Take a Closer Look!**
Dialysis happens during the third step, or the Dwell step. While the PD solution is in your body, waste from your blood can pass through your peritoneal membrane and into the solution. When you drain the solution at the start of the next exchange, the waste and extra fluid are removed from your body.
Two Types of PD

Depending on your needs, you may use APD or CAPD. In some cases, people use both methods.

**Automated Peritoneal Dialysis (APD)**
- APD works during the night while you sleep.
- A machine called a cycler is set up to automatically do PD exchanges.
- Your nurse will tell you if you need a PD exchange during the day. This exchange may be completed using a cycler or by performing a manual exchange.

**Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD)**
- CAPD is a manual method of PD that uses gravity to drain and fill the dialysis fluid through the PD catheter.
- CAPD exchanges (drain, fill, dwell) are performed by you, usually four times throughout the day.
- The drain and fill steps of each exchange require about 30 minutes to complete.
- During the dwell phase, you are free to go about your normal routine until it is time for the next exchange.

If you have any questions about how PD treatment can help you or which type you’ll use, talk to your nurse or PD team.
New Words

APD
Automated Peritoneal Dialysis is a method of PD. It’s performed by a machine (cycler), at night while you sleep.

PD catheter
A small, flexible tube surgically placed through the wall of your abdomen. It allows PD solution to move into and out of the peritoneal cavity.

PD exchange
A PD exchange removes waste products and excess fluid from the body and replaces it with new solution. Each PD exchange has three steps: drain, fill, and dwell.

PD solution
A solution used to draw waste products and extra fluid out of your blood.

Peritoneal cavity
The space inside your abdomen that holds the stomach and other organs. The lining of this space is called the peritoneal membrane.

Peritoneal dialysis (PD)
Peritoneal dialysis is the process of cleaning the blood by using the peritoneal membrane as a filter.

Peritoneal membrane
The lining of your peritoneal cavity. During dialysis it filters waste products and fluid from your blood into the PD solution.

Transfer set
Tubing that connects the patient line on the disposable set to catheter.

Uremia
A medical condition caused by a build-up of waste products in the blood when your kidneys are not working well.
References


PD Training: Patient Training Self-test
Starting Peritoneal Dialysis

1. Normal kidneys clean the blood by removing waste products and excess fluid.
   True  False

4a. When a person has uremia, the symptoms should go away after peritoneal dialysis is started.
   True  False

1a. When the kidneys fail, waste products build up in the body and body fluids are no longer in balance.
   True  False

5. PD requires you to have a permanent catheter placed into which part of your body?
   a. Arm
   b. Neck
   c. Peritoneal cavity

2. Which of the following are symptoms of uremia?
   a. Increase in appetite
   b. Drowsiness
   c. Double vision

6. A PD catheter allows the PD solution to move into and out of your peritoneal cavity.
   True  False

3. As kidney function decreases, what happens to symptoms of uremia?
   a. Uremia symptoms worsen
   b. Uremia symptoms improve
   c. Uremia symptoms disappear

7. A transfer set is attached to your PD catheter and connects to your PD system.
   True  False

4. PD is a medical treatment that does which of the following?
   a. Removes waste products from the blood
   b. Removes excess water from the blood
   c. Both a and b

8. Which of the following are steps in the PD exchange?
   a. Drain
   b. Fill
   c. Dwell
   d. All of the above

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9. Waste products and extra body fluid are removed when the PD solution is drained.
   True  False

10. Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) and Automated Peritoneal Dialysis (APD) are two ways to perform dialysis at home.
   True  False

11. Peritoneal dialysis (PD) can be planned to fit into your family and work routine.
   True  False

12. CAPD uses gravity to drain and fill the dialysis fluid through the PD catheter.
   True  False

13. APD works using a device and can be used while you sleep.
   True  False

Patient Signature: ______________________________________________________
Date: _______________________________

Answers: 1-True, 2-a, 3-b, 4-c, 5-True, 6-True, 7-True, 8-d, 9-True, 10-True, 11-True, 12-True, 13-True
Patient Training: Patient Checklist

Starting Peritoneal Dialysis

Patient Name: __________________________________________________________

Person Trained: ________________________________________________________

Relationship to Patient: ________________________________________________

Completed by (Signature): ________________________ Date: ________________

Patient Training/Retraining Checklist Instructions

• The Patient Training Checklist should be used to help track the patient’s progress while being trained, to refresh the learning of a current patient/caregiver or to retrain a returning patient.

• Place the date in the appropriate box as the patient verbalizes understanding of a topic or successfully completes a return demonstration of a procedure.

• If the topic is not applicable (N/A) to the patient, place the date in the N/A column.

• Use Notes section as needed to indicate future training needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient demonstrates or verbalizes understanding of:</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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<td><strong>Lifestyle options of PD</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• PD is therapy you do at home</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Your PD treatment schedule may be set to match your lifestyle</td>
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<td>• Doesn’t involve blood and needles during treatment</td>
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<td>• Offers opportunity to travel</td>
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**What normal kidneys do**
- Clean blood to remove excess waste and water
- Keep body chemicals in balance
- Control blood pressure and help make red blood cells

**When kidneys fail**
- Waste products build up in blood
- Body fluids are no longer in balance

**Uremia**
- A buildup of waste products in the blood when kidneys are not working
- Common uremia symptoms

**What is peritoneal dialysis (PD)?**
- Peritoneal membrane, along with PD solution, cleans and filters the blood
- PD can relieve many of the symptoms of uremia

**The PD catheter**
- Permanent access for PD treatments
- Small flexible tube surgically placed into space called peritoneal cavity
- A transfer set is used to connect the PD catheter to tubing for the PD solution to fill and drain from the peritoneal cavity
- Transfer set remains connected to your catheter and is changed only by PD nurse

**What is a PD exchange?**
- PD exchange removes used PD solution containing waste products and fluid from the body and replaces it with new PD solution
- Each exchange has three steps: drain, fill and dwell

**Performing PD at home**
- CAPD and APD are two ways to do PD at home

2  PD Training: Starting Peritoneal Dialysis

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Patient demonstrates or verbalizes understanding of: | Yes | No | N/A |
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**How CAPD works**

- CAPD is a manual method of PD using gravity to drain and fill dialysis fluid through PD catheter
- CAPD exchanges are performed by you, usually four times a day
- Drain and fill steps of each exchange take about 30 minutes
- During dwell phase, you go about your normal routine until the next exchange

**How APD works**

- A cycler machine is used to automatically perform each exchange
- A cycler can be used at night during sleep

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**Final Checks** | Yes | No | N/A |
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Lesson reviewed
New words reviewed
Self-test completed

Patient Signature: ____________________________  Date: ____________________

Notes

(If topic not completed or retraining required, specify reason. Procedure training may be documented if applicable.)

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