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Quality of life with Peritoneal Dialysis (PD). An evaluation using the Renal Dependent Quality of Life questionnaire (RDQoL)

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Whilst several measures of health status and at least one of quality of life have been applied to clinical studies with renal patients, few of them allow patients to indicate which aspects of life are relevant to them and to rate their importance. The RDQoL (Bradley, 1997) contains 2 overview items plus 19 domain-specific items which measure individuals' perceptions of the impact of their renal condition on each life domain, weighted by the importance of that domain for quality of life. This presentation provides a descriptive analysis of the first clinical application of the RDQoL.

76 patients (33 females, 43 males; median age, 59.5 years; median time on PD, 18.5 months) from the PD programme at North Staffordshire Hospital NHS Trust completed the RDQoL during clinics between December 1998 and May 1999. For the RDQoL 19 life domains, impact ratings (-3 to +3) are multiplied by corresponding importance ratings ('0' being not important to 3 being very important) to provide a score from -9 to +9 for each domain. Median values indicated that the highest negative impact ratings weighted by importance (-4) were with working life/work related opportunities, family life, doing physical things, holiday/leisure activities and confidence in ability to do things. Life domains giving median scores of zero (indicating no impact of renal failure and/or no importance for the individual's quality of life) were: spiritual/religious life; society's reactions; finances and living conditions.

In this sample, the RDQoL has provided insight into areas of patients' lives judged to be important which would be improved if they did not have renal failure. This approach towards the assessment of the impact of the renal condition upon patients' perceived quality of life deserves further evaluation for research purposes and clinical use.