

Contraindications of Dialysis therapy

Principally there is no absolute contraindication to dialysis therapy. Advanced age in and of itself is not a contraindication to dialysis therapy. Many elderly are physiologically equivalent to young patients.

Relative contraindications to dialysis therapy

1. Advanced malignancy (except multiple myeloma)
2. Alzheimer's disease
3. Multi-infarct dementia
4. Hepatorenal syndrome
5. Advanced liver cirrhosis with encephalopathy
6. Hypotension unresponsive to pressors
7. Terminal illness
8. Organic brain syndrome

Contraindication for Peritoneal dialysis

Absolute

1. Peritoneal fibrosis
2. Pleuroperitoneal leak

Relative Major

1. Chronic Ostomies
2. Severe hypercatabolic state
3. Fresh aortic prosthesis
4. Recent Abdominal surgery
5. Recent Thoracic surgery
6. Extensive Abdominal adhesions
7. Quadriplegia
8. Blindness
9. Physical handicaps
10. Mental Retardation

Relative Minor

1. Polycystic Kidney disease
2. Diverticulosis
3. Obesity
4. Peripheral vascular disease
5. Hyperlipidemia
6. Social

7. Hernias ?

Table 1. Appropriate situations for withholding or withdrawing dialysis

- A fully informed patient with decision-making capacity who refuses dialysis or asks that dialysis be discontinued.
 - A patient who does not currently possess decision-making capacity but previously indicated refusal of dialysis in an oral or written advance directive.
 - A patient who does not currently possess decision-making capacity and whose properly appointed legal agent refuses dialysis or asks that dialysis be discontinued.
 - A patient who has irreversible, profound neurological impairment such that he or she lacks signs of thought, sensation, purposeful behavior, and awareness of self and environment.
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Adapted from *Shared Decision-Making in the Appropriate Initiation of and Withdrawal from Dialysis* (5).