

Perception of Prognostication in Patients with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) among Nephrologists in BC

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Summary: Patients with ESRD are at high risk of mortality. To guide robust management strategies for patients, we aimed to better understand how nephrologists in BC consider prognosis during routine care. A multiple choice survey was distributed to all adult nephrologists in BC. Response rate was 66%. About half of respondents indicated they make an explicit attempt to estimate and/or discuss survival with ESRD patients not on dialysis, although less than half reported they do so with patients on dialysis. Survival estimation is primarily based on clinical gestalt. Respondents indicated a wide range of issues that are influenced by prognosis; including advanced care planning, transplant referral, choice of dialysis access, medication management, and consideration of conservative care. Respondents expressed the need for a validated prognostic tool to guide clinical management. In conclusion, prognostication of patients with ESRD is an important issue for nephrologists and impacts management in fairly sophisticated ways.