

**C12**

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### **Examining Dermatology Referral Patterns and Their Association with Patient Knowledge and Sunscreen Usage in End-Stage Kidney Disease (ESKD) Patients**

**Introduction:** Dermatological conditions are common in patients with ESKD. We studied dermatologic referral rates, sunscreen use and knowledge of skin conditions in a population of inner city pts with ESKD.

**Methods:** A random convenience sample of 24 dialysis and 28 kidney transplant pts was surveyed regarding previous referral to a dermatologist, prevalence of common dermatologic complaints, sunscreen use and knowledge of medication effects on skin.

**Results:** Mean age was  $58.7 \pm 2.1$  yrs, 50% were males, 17% attended college, 87% identified as Black.

75% of pts had not been referred to a dermatologist since ESKD diagnosis. 64% of pts had never seen a dermatologist. Txp pts were more likely to have been referred ( $r=0.27$ ,  $p=0.049$ ). 82% knew nothing about skin effects of ESKD and were not aware of dermatologic side effects of their medications.

Pts who had been referred to dermatologists were more likely to report knowing about ESKD associated skin diseases ( $r=0.42$ ,  $p=0.003$ ). Only 16% of pts used sunscreen, women more likely than men (6/20, 30% vs 1/25, 4%). Use of sunscreen was associated with having a txp ( $r=0.29$ ,  $p=0.035$ ) and being referred to a dermatologist ( $r=0.28$ ,  $p=0.049$ ).

31% reported recent episodes of pruritis and 40% extremely dry skin. 83% were likely or very likely to seek dermatologic care in the future after participation in the survey.

**Conclusion:** In our population 1. Majority reported never being referred to a dermatologist. 2. Few were aware of dermatological diseases related to ESKD or the medications they were taking. 3. Those who had been referred were more likely to have a txp, to be aware of these conditions and to use sunscreen. 4. There was a high prevalence of pruritis and dry skin. 5. Majority of pts stated that they would seek dermatologic care after being surveyed. Dermatologic diseases can have far reaching effects on quality of life and long-term health in pts with ESKD, highlighting the importance of referrals as part of routine care.