

Preface: New CKD guidebook from the Japanese Society of Nephrology

© Japanese Society of Nephrology 2009

It is known that general physicians find renal diseases difficult to understand, because numerous renal diseases with similar names are confusing. The term “chronic kidney diseases (CKD)” was created to put the various renal diseases into simple concept and thus to unite the public and nephrologists. In 2002, the NKF published clinical practice guidelines on evaluation, classification, and risk stratification in CKD. CKD is a worldwide public health problem. In Japan, there is rising incidence and prevalence of chronic kidney failure, with poor outcome and high cost. The number of individuals with kidney failure treated by dialysis exceeded 270,000 in 2007 and is expected to surpass 370,000 by 2017.

To improve the outcome of CKD patients, in 2004 the Japanese Society of Nephrology set up the Committee of CKD initiative consisting of four groups—the epidemiology study group, the establishment of health care system group, the approach to the public group, and the international collaboration group.

The first mission of the J-CKD initiative was to survey the prevalence of CKD in the general Japanese population. In the K/DOQI guideline it is recommended that renal function be estimated by use of the MDRD equation.

However, it is unlikely that the eGFR calculated by use of the original MDRD equation accurately estimates GFR in the Japanese population. To create a new eGFR equation formula fit for the Japanese, the project “eGFR Equation Formula fit for Japanese” was launched in December 2006. Inulin clearance was measured 600 times for creation of the equation formula and 400 times for validation, in 80 institutions nationwide. According to this new formula prevalence of CKD stages 3 to 5 reached 10.98 million, or 10.6% of the Japanese population; total prevalence was 13.3 million, or 12.9%.

Since we established the new eGFR equation formula we have revised the clinical practice guidebook for diagnosis and treatment of CKD published September in 2007. I believe this guidebook will be a useful tool for the general physician for treatment of patients with CKD not only in Japan but also in Asian countries. I really hope the number of chronic renal failure patients requiring dialysis or having the complication of cardiovascular diseases will decrease.

Hirofumi Makino, MD, PhD
President of the Japanese Society of Nephrology