

Dialysis – More Harm than Good?



A pediatric case



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Case (1)

- Female born at 36 weeks
 - Crash Caesarean section for fetal distress
 - Significant neonatal problems
 - Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy
 - Renal failure initially
 - SEVERE Hypertension (5 medications)
 - Severe neurologic impairment (structural and EEG) – developed seizure disorder
- Aspiration (required G-tube)



Case (2)

- Social Situation
 - Mom has little English
 - 2 young siblings
 - Dad not involved with day to day care of children
 - Physical and Financial abuse from Dad
 - Mom has left Dad at time child in the NICU



Case (3)

- Discharge situation
 - Mom required to give 5 medications
 - Basement apartment with 3 children
 - Continuous G-tube feeds
 - Followed by 7-10 Specialists and Sub-specialists and their Clinics
 - Respite care 1 W/E per 4-6 weeks



Course (1)

- ARF at birth
- Improved over first few months of life
- Within 1 year creatinine above 100 (v. abnormal)
- At 20 months of age developed severe dehydration
 - Acute on Chronic Renal Failure
 - CRRT and then PD for 6+ weeks
 - Father outside of country
 - Little parental involvement in care during admission (few visits, no questions re dialysis etc.)



Course (2)

- Able to come off PD and stabilized level of CRF manageable by medical therapy
- Still no significant change in neurological status – severely delayed and full care
- By 2 years renal function deteriorating rapidly
- On 13 medications and G tube feeds 24 hours a day



Decision time

- 30 months
- Creatinine 300 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ / Urea 50 mmol/L
- Na 115
- Unresponsive to most stimulus



Family Wishes

- Mom does not wish dialysis/ prolonging suffering
 - Afraid to tell Dad of her decision
- Dad who has never come to clinic and does no 'care' of child in the home (but does live with family) wishes everything to be done



Now What?



Final Outcome

- Discussion with Mom – agreed to a DNAR
- Contacted Dad and convinced to come to hospital at 1700.
 - Long discussion and eventual agreement to DNAR
 - DNAR written and communicated
 - Consult to Canuck Place
 - Died at home within 2 weeks
- Number of Renal Team attended funeral

