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The Wearable Artificial Kidney, Why and How: From Holy Grail to Reality

Victor Gura,* Claudio Ronco,† and Andrew Davenport‡

*Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, UCLA, The David Geffen School of Medicine, Los Angeles, California, †Department of Nephrology, Dialysis & Transplantation, San Raffaele, Venezia, Italy, and ‡MRC, Centre for Nephrology, Royal Free & University College Medical School, London, United Kingdom

ABSTRACT

Once hemodialysis had become established as a treatment for chronic kidney disease, the early pioneers realized the limitations of the treatment, particularly in terms of the impact on quality of life— not only time spent on dialysis and low mobility, but also the need for a dialysis machine and the associated costs. This led to the search for the holy grail— a wearable hemodialysis device (WAK) that would allow patients to receive continuous treatment, while going on with the normal activities of daily life. Such a device would not only provide

adequate solute clearance and control both electrolyte and acid base status, but also improve blood pressure control— all while allowing a liberal diet. Despite many attempts, including with a wearable sorbent filter, it is only recently, with the advent of microtechnology, that it has been possible to construct a truly wearable device with only minimally regular ultrafiltration and achieve adequate solute clearance. Our research has recently completed successful human pilot studies, designed to test device reliability, safety, and efficacy.

Today routine patient dialysis is now regarded as a well-established technique, typically delivered in satellite dialysis units, private clinics, or minimal-care centers, well away from the main hospital base. However, in the early pioneering days, many obstacles had to be overcome, not only in the development of technology, but also the issues of reimbursement and patient eligibility. Besides the fundamental technological advances required to develop dialysis and dialysis machines (1), other key advances were required to move treatment forward from its tentative beginnings limited to patients with acute kidney injury, to the provision of chronic dialysis treatments. These included stable vascular access (2) and hepatorenal transplantation to prevent circuit clotting.

Once the early pioneers had conquered these major hurdles and could deliver successful hemodialysis to patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD), they realized the limitations of the therapy, particularly its effects on patients' lifestyle. As a result, the search for a dialysis

device that could be worn on a patient's body can be traced back several decades to these early pioneers (3–7). The main rationale for these attempts to attain wearability, were patient convenience and improved quality of life.

These initial attempts to develop a WAK were hampered because of the need for large amounts of fresh water for dialysis, the size and weight of the available blood and dialysate pumps, and the lack of available energy sources to power these pumps. Sorbents were used to reduce the amount of fresh dialysate required, but the typical sorbent cartridge weight of over 2 kg reduced mobility. None of these devices could be commercially developed. Others created wearable hemofilters (8), typically using arterial or arteriovenous access (9), but neither adequate solute clearance nor encountered the formidable obstacle of replacing large amounts of ultrafiltrate effluent with suitable replacement solutions for intravascular infusion or oral replacement. While these techniques proved useful in the enter of fluid overload, they were not a commercially viable renal replacement therapy (RRT) for treating chronic kidney failure patients.

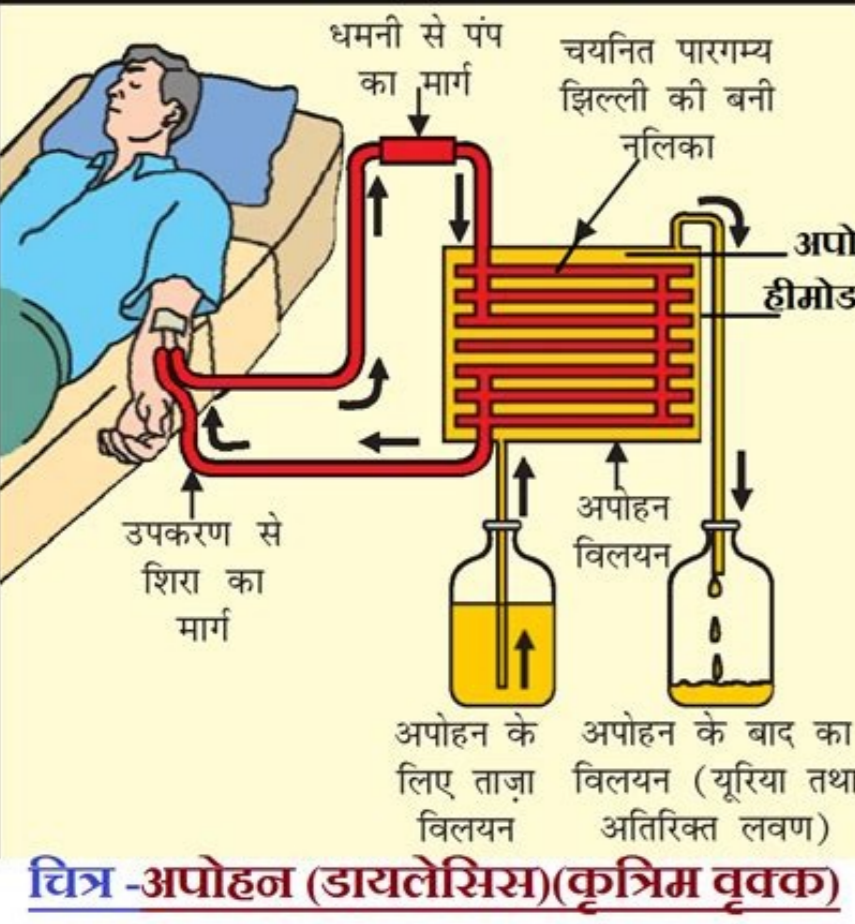
Traditionally, hemodialysis patients have been offered three weekly hemodialysis. Over time, with further advances in membrane technology, dialysis sessions continued three weekly but times were shortened from 8 hours down to a worldwide average of 4 hours (8). However, shortening the dialysis session, with a compensatory increase in ultrafiltration rate, led to increased frequency of intradialytic hypotension (8, 10),

Address correspondence to: Victor Gura, MD, Attending Physician, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, UCLA, The David Geffen School of Medicine, 9100 Wilshire Blvd Suite 3030, Beverly Hills, CA 90212, or vgura@csnet.com.
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5th Global Nephrologists Annual Meeting

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Abstracts from the 5th Global Nephrologists Annual Meeting, 2020. The meeting was held online from April 15-17, 2020. The meeting was organized by the International Society for Artificial Kidney (ISAK) and the International Society for Hemodialysis (ISHD). The meeting was held in a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting featured a variety of presentations, including keynote addresses, oral presentations, and poster presentations. The meeting was a success and provided a valuable opportunity for nephrologists from around the world to connect and share their research and clinical experiences.



Artificial kidney in India. Artificial kidney dialysis. Artificial kidney machine. Artificial kidney 2022. Artificial kidney class 10. Artificial kidney is called. Artificial kidney latest news. Artificial kidney price.

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Key feature: WAKAWAKIDAKIT type of artificial kidney: Hemodialysis/Peritoneal dialysis/For implantation/ Central principle/ Modified sorbent system/ Modified sorbent system/ Bio-hybrid: Hemo-cartridge (=glomerulus) and bio-reactor (=tubular function)/ Weight

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