



# Blood purification therapy in chronic renal failure and its impact on renal index, serological index, and inflammatory factors

Batool Butt, MBBS, FCPS<sup>a</sup>, Adnan Mushtaq, MBBS<sup>c</sup>, Fatima Abdul Hameed, MBBS<sup>d</sup>, Muhammad Sajid Rafique Abbasi, MD, FRCP<sup>d</sup>, Maham Tariq, MBBS<sup>f</sup>, Amna Akbar, MBBS, CHPE<sup>e</sup>, Sarosh Khan Jadoon, MBBS<sup>g</sup>, Sabahat Tasneem, BDS-RDS, MSPH<sup>e</sup>, Mumtaz Ahmad, MBBS, FCPS<sup>h</sup>, Anam Zeb, M.Phil<sup>b</sup>, Sarosh Alvi, BS<sup>i,\*</sup>

**Introduction:** This study aimed to explore the clinical effects of blood purification therapy in patients with chronic renal disease, measured by renal function index and inflammation.

**Methodology:** Data were collected from a tertiary care hospital in Pakistan between June 2022 and September 2023. Eighty-four patients undergoing maintenance hemodialysis for chronic renal failure were retrospectively included in this cohort.

**Results:** Age, sex, BMI, course of disease, primary disease, and educational level were not related to the response to blood purification treatment. Blood purification therapy positively affected renal function, serological indices, and inflammatory factors ( $P < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** Blood purification therapy can improve toxin clearance and renal function and reduce inflammation. Therefore, the authors can conclude that this is an effective therapy for our population.

**Keywords:** blood purification, chronic renal failure, hemodialysis, hemoperfusion, toxin clearance

## Introduction

Chronic renal failure (CRF) refers to the common manifestation of various primary or secondary chronic kidney diseases<sup>[1,2]</sup>. It can lead to renal dysfunction. Patients are unable to maintain the needs of the body, which is accompanied by increased serum creatinine, decreased glomerular filtration rate, and related metabolic products and toxin retention, water-electrolyte imbalance, and acid-base disturbances<sup>[3,4]</sup>. CRF can be divided into four stages according to the degree of renal damage: compensatory, decompensatory, failure, and uremic<sup>[5]</sup>. The compensatory stage is the first stage of renal insufficiency, with

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Hemoperfusion can save the residual renal function.
- Blood purification therapy positively affected renal function, serological indices, and inflammatory factors.
- Age, sex, BMI, course of disease, primary disease, and educational level were not related to the response to blood purification treatment.

serum creatinine levels in the range of 133–177  $\mu\text{mol/l}$ . The kidneys at this stage are normal or mildly abnormal, and the clinical symptoms are not obvious. If the patient is actively treated to remove the inducing factors, the condition may progress slowly or be relieved to some extent<sup>[6]</sup>. The decompensatory stage is the second stage of renal insufficiency, with serum creatinine levels in the range of 177–451  $\mu\text{mol/l}$ . Currently, not only are there structural abnormalities in renal lesions, namely glomerulosclerosis, renal tubular atrophy, and interstitial fibrosis, but also abnormal renal function, which is seriously deranged<sup>[7]</sup>. The failure stage is the third stage of renal insufficiency, namely the early stage of uremia, with serum creatinine levels in the range of 451–707  $\mu\text{mol/l}$ . The patient's kidney reserve capacity gradually decreases, urine output gradually decreases, anemia aggravates, and volume load gradually increases, followed by heart failure, pulmonary edema, pericardial and pleural effusion, severe ion disorder, and metabolic acidosis<sup>[8]</sup>. Uremia is the fourth stage of renal insufficiency and the most serious stage of renal failure, with a serum creatinine level greater than 707  $\mu\text{mol/l}$ . Patients have obvious clinical symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, anorexia, stomach pain, severe edema, dyspnea, and other heart failure

<sup>a</sup>Medical Specialist FUSH, <sup>b</sup>Army Medical College, Rawalpindi, <sup>c</sup>Quaid-e-Azam International Hospital, <sup>d</sup>Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, <sup>e</sup>Health Services Academy, Islamabad, <sup>f</sup>Gujranwala Teaching Hospital, Gujranwala, <sup>g</sup>Resident surgery, MBBS, CMH/SKBZ, <sup>h</sup>Department of Pathology, Abbas Institute of Medical Sciences, Azad Jammu & Kashmir Medical College, Muzaffarabad AJK, Pakistan and <sup>i</sup>Teaching Faculty, University of Khartoum, Khartoum, Sudan

Sponsorships or competing interests that may be relevant to content are disclosed at the end of this article.

\*Corresponding author. Address: Teaching Faculty, University of Khartoum, Khartoum, Sudan. Tel.: +249 920 791 284. E-mail: Ivisarosh500@gmail.com (S. Alvi).

Copyright © 2024 The Author(s). Published by Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivatives License 4.0 (CCBY-NC-ND), where it is permissible to download and share the work provided it is properly cited. The work cannot be changed in any way or used commercially without permission from the journal.

Annals of Medicine & Surgery (2024) 86:3856–3864

Received 7 January 2024; Accepted 8 May 2024

Published online 15 May 2024

<https://dx.doi.org/10.1097/MS9.0000000000002182>

manifestations, most of which are accompanied by severe anaemia, low calcium levels, and high phosphorus levels<sup>[9]</sup>.

Creatinine and blood urea nitrogen (BUN) levels are measured to assess kidney health<sup>[10]</sup>. Creatinine is a major uremic toxin, which when accumulated in the bloodstream, can lead to impair kidney function and hasten the ageing process of the kidneys<sup>[11]</sup>. Increased BUN and creatinine levels frequently indicate poor kidney function, thus it's important to comprehend and treat these indicators in renal disease patients<sup>[10]</sup>. Elevated serum levels of  $\beta_2$ -macroglobulin ( $\beta_2$ -MG) were detected in patients with chronic kidney failure in 1973<sup>[12]</sup>. Serum  $\beta_2$ -MG has a strong correlation with kidney disease. High levels of  $\beta_2$ -MG are linked to both mortality and morbidity in end-stage kidney disease (ESKD), including vascular calcification. Additionally,  $\beta_2$ -MG is inversely related with glomerular filtration rate (GFR)<sup>[13]</sup>. Several inflammatory markers are associated with chronic kidney disease. These include interleukins (ILs), tumor necrosis factor (TNF), interferon (IFN), and transforming growth factor (TGF), chemokines, and cell adhesion molecules (CAMs)<sup>[14]</sup> and C-reactive proteins (CRP)<sup>[15]</sup>. Measurement of them can give important information about kidney health<sup>[14]</sup>.

At present, early patients with CRF can be treated with drugs, but these are not suitable for advanced patients. If the disease progresses to a more serious stage, it needs to be treated with an alternative approach, such as peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis and renal transplant, to help patients live a less painful life<sup>[16]</sup>. Kidney transplantation is the best therapeutic option, but limited blood supplies, high treatment costs, and other limitations prevent widespread use. As a result, blood purification therapy becomes an attractive substitute that is both practical and affordable, convenient, and highly effective. This therapy improves internal stability by quickly removing harmful compounds and retaining water in the patient's body<sup>[17]</sup>. More than two million patients are treated with hemodialysis (HD) worldwide<sup>[18]</sup>. Clinically, patients with CRF are also treated with hemoperfusion, which can remove exogenous or endogenous toxins, drugs, or metabolic waste that cannot be removed by dialysis<sup>[19]</sup>. Studies<sup>[20]</sup> also show that both high-flux hemodialysis and hemoperfusion can better protect patients' residual renal function, effectively improve the therapeutic effect, and prolong their survival time. Therefore, this research was designed to study the outcomes of hemoperfusion in patients with CRF and analyze its clinical curative effect and influence on renal function indices. This finding may provide a reliable reference for the therapeutic efficacy of hemoperfusion in the Pakistani population. By focusing on a comprehensive set of outcomes, including kidney function indices, inflammatory markers, serologic indices and patient demographics, this research aims to contribute valuable insights into the optimization of blood purification therapies for CRF management in Pakistan.

## Methodology

Data were collected from a tertiary care hospital in Pakistan from June 2022 through September 2023 and analyzed retrospectively. Approval was obtained before data collection from the ethical committee of the hospital in May 2022 with IRB approval number # AIMS7575/2023. Due to its retrospective nature, consent was not taken directly from the patients. Tertiary care hospitals treat patients through hemodialysis on a regular basis, and some patients are treated with hemoperfusion. The choice of

hemoperfusion is based on the patient's choice, as this is not a common methodology. The present study aimed to analyze outcomes in patients in whom hemoperfusion was applied and evaluated if the method had better outcomes than regular hemodialysis. The evaluation was performed based on variables, such as inflammation, serological index, and renal function index. The statistical methods used mean and standard deviation, and ANOVA test for continuous variables.

## Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Patients were included in the study if they were diagnosed with CRF for more than six months, were undergoing hemodialysis more than twice a month, and had complete data for clinical diagnosis and follow-up. Patients with incomplete data were excluded from the study. Patients who progressed to renal transplant, died during the 1-year period of study, had missing follow-up data, and laboratory investigations were also excluded. Pregnant women and patients with disorders that suppress the immune system or cause septicemia were not included. Patients with cerebrovascular and cardiovascular disorders and mental disorders such as chronic depression were also excluded. Patients with a history of parathyroidectomy within six months of hemodialysis were excluded (Fig. 1).

## Patients

Patients with chronic renal failure receiving renal replacement therapy and symptomatic treatment, including administration of folic acid, calcium carbonate, erythropoietin, and other treatments to reduce phosphorus, supplement calcium, and correct iron-deficiency anemia. Patients were monitored for glucose control and blood pressure regulation. The records of patients who had undergone hemoperfusion along with hemodialysis

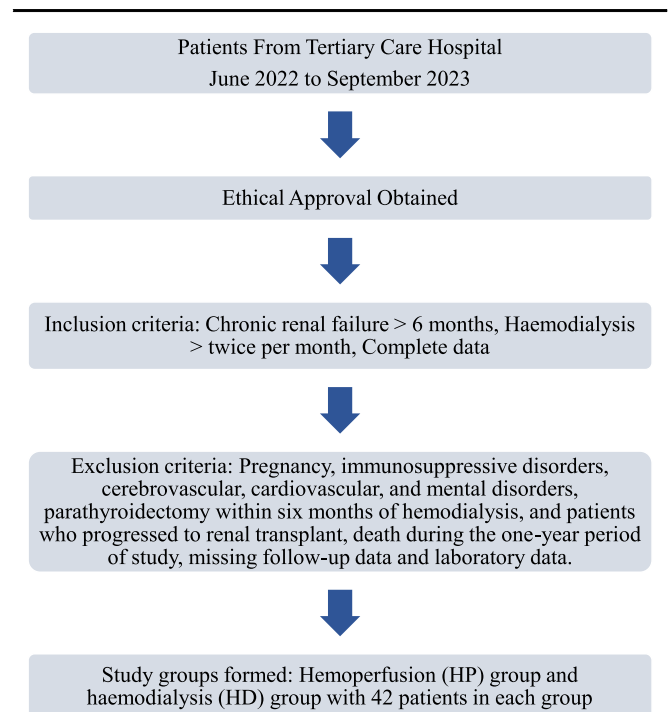


Figure 1. Patient recruitment chart.

were searched, and a cohort of 42 patients was selected for whom complete data were available. To confirm the efficiency of hemoperfusion combined with dialysis, we needed patients for whom we could compare these patients. We selected a cohort of 42 patients that matched in clinical characteristics and were demographically matchable. These patients also underwent hemodialysis without hemoperfusion. The patients undergoing hemodialysis only were named “hemodialysis (HD) group” and those taking hemoperfusion and dialysis were named “hemodialysis- hemoperfusion (HP) group.”

### Hemodialysis/Hemoperfusion procedure

The hemodialysis procedure at our tertiary care center was performed on a Fresenius 4008s hemodialysis machine and bicarbonate dialysate with a blood flow of up to 200 ml/min. Dialysis sessions were usually continued for 12 weeks, with three sessions per week, each lasting for almost 4 h. A disposable resin hemoperfusion apparatus was used in patients who underwent hemoperfusion along with hemodialysis. It was connected to a dialysis machine, which was continuously perfused for two hours, and the apparatus was removed after saturation.

### Detection of kidney function indices

The renal function indices of patients were measured, including serum creatinine (S. Cr), BUN and  $\beta_2$ -MG. Fasting venous blood (5 ml) was drawn before and after a treatment session in hemodialysis patients as part of regular observation. Only those patients' data for which complete blood profiles were available were included in the study.

### Detection of inflammatory factors

Inflammatory factors, including tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ), interleukin-1 (IL-1), IL-6 and CRP, were measured using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. These values were available for our cohorts.

### Detection of serological indexes

Serological indices, including parathyroid hormone (PTH), homocysteine (Hcy), and blood phosphorus levels, were detected by automatic biochemical immunoassay.

### Outcome measures

Therapeutic effects were compared between the two groups. Total effective rate = (markedly effective + effective)/total number of patients  $\times$  100. The therapy was considered markedly effective when the symptoms were resolved to the maximum, effective if the symptom resolution was partial, and ineffective if the symptoms were not resolved. In the two groups, the changes in renal function indices (SCr, BUN, and  $\beta_2$ -MG), inflammatory factors (TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1, IL-6, and CRP), and serological indices (PTH, Hcy, and blood phosphorus levels) were compared before and after treatment. Comparisons were performed using a paired-sample *t*-test. The work has been reported in line with the STROCCS criteria<sup>[21]</sup> under UIN: researchregistry9859, <https://www.researchregistry.com/browse-the-registry#home/registrationdetails/658b80b2d81db40027714562/>.

**Table 1**

Mean and standard deviation for continuous variables.

Variables	Mean $\pm$ standard deviation	Median
Age		
HD	47.64 $\pm$ 9.28	48.00
HP	53.07 $\pm$ 11.21	54.50
BMI		
HD	22.13 $\pm$ 2.0	22.250
HP	23.304 $\pm$ 2.17	23.250
Duration of disease time in years		
HD	6.50 $\pm$ 1.64	7.00
HP	7.42 $\pm$ 1.68	8.00

HD, hemodialysis group; HP, hemodialysis-hemoperfusion group.

**Table 2**

Basic characteristics of both cohorts.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Sex		
HD		
Male	22	52.4
Female	20	47.6
HP		
Male	25	59.5
Female	17	40.5
Primary diagnosis		
HD		
Chronic glomerulonephritis	14	34.1
Chronic pyelonephritis	2	4.9
Diabetic nephropathy	13	31.7
Hypertensive nephropathy	8	19.5
Other	4	9.8
HP		
Chronic glomerulonephritis	16	38.1
Chronic pyelonephritis	2	4.8
Diabetic nephropathy	13	31.0
Hypertensive nephropathy	9	21.4
Other	2	4.8
Effectiveness		
HD		
Ineffective	6	14.3
Effective	25	59.5
Markedly effective	11	26.2
HP		
Ineffective	1	2.4
Effective	23	54.8
Markedly effective	18	42.9
Adverse effects		
HD		
No adverse effects	32	76.2
Muscle spasm	4	9.5
Itchy skin	3	7.1
Cardiovascular event	2	4.8
Dysarteriotomy	1	2.4
HP		
No adverse effects	38	90.5
Muscle spasm	3	7.1
Itchy skin	1	2.4

HD, hemodialysis group; HP, hemodialysis-hemoperfusion group.

**Table 3**  
**Comparison between and within groups using ANOVA test.**

ANOVA					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Age HD					
Between groups	3360.234	7	480.033	97.493	0.000
Within groups	167.409	35	4.924		
Total	3527.643	42			
BMI HD					
Between groups	33.987	7	4.855	1.267	0.0255
Within groups	130.246	35	3.831		
Total	164.233	42			
Age HP					
Between groups	257.529	7	36.790	0.255	0.007
Within groups	4899.256	35	144.096		
Total	5156.786	42			
BMI HP					
Between groups	59.718	7	8.531	2.171	0.032
Within groups	133.584	35	3.929		
Total	193.302	42			
Gender HD					
Between groups	1.462	7	0.209	0.788	0.012
Within groups	9.014	35	0.265		
Total	10.476	42			
Sex HP					
Between groups	2.383	7	0.340	1.496	0.002
Within groups	7.736	35	0.228		
Total	10.119	42			

HD, hemodialysis group; HP, hemodialysis-hemoperfusion group; Sig., significance.

**Results**

The mean and standard deviation of continuous variables including age, BMI, and disease duration for both groups (hemodialysis, HD; hemoperfusion, HP) were determined (Table 1). Years in the HD group was  $47.64 \pm 9.28$  years and  $53.07 \pm 11.21$  years in the HP group. The basic characteristics of the groups (Table 2), such as sex and clinical characteristics of patients, including primary diagnosis and effectiveness of the treatment, are categorical variables. There were 52.4% males in the HD group and 59.5% males in the HP group, while diabetic nephropathy was 31.7% and 31.0%, respectively. Comparing the basic clinical data, we found that there was no statistical

**Table 4**  
**Change of renal function indexes before and after treatment.**

Pre_HD_SCr	750.4 ± 15.90	0.538
Pre_HP_SCr	752.38 ± 15.9	
Post_HD_SCr	503.4 ± 10.7	0.000
Post_HP_SCr	400.1 ± 78.7	
Pre_HD_BUN	24.8 ± 2.9	0.001
Pre_HP_BUN	26.5 ± 0.9	
Post_HD_BUN	15.04 ± 1.2	0.000
Post_HP_BUN	8.1 ± 1.1	
Pre_HD_β2MG	7.85 ± 1.2	0.000
Pre_HP_β2MG	6.01 ± 1.85	
Post_HD_β2MG	4.05 ± 1.4	0.000
Post_HP_β2MG	1.84 ± 0.44	

*P* < 0.05 shows significance.

β2-MG, β2- macroglobulin; BUN, blood urea nitrogen; HD, hemodialysis group; HP, hemodialysis-hemoperfusion group; S. Cr, Serum creatinine.

**Table 5**  
**Changes of inflammatory factors before and after treatment.**

Pre_HD_TNF_α	6.81 ± 1.82	0.484
Pre_HP_TNF_α	7.04 ± 1.21	
Post_HD_TNF_α	2.41 ± 0.33	0.000
Post_HP_TNF_α	1.64 ± 0.37	
Pre_HD_IL_1	4.78 ± 0.28	0.000
Pre_HP_IL_1	5.86 ± 0.81	
Post_HD_IL_1	3.73 ± 0.48	0.000
Post_HP_IL_1	1.84 ± 0.44	
Pre_HD_IL_6	27.98 ± 0.46	0.000
Pre_HP_IL_6	27.53 ± 0.7	
Post_HD_IL_6	20.59 ± 2.1	0.000
Post_HP_IL_6	12.09 ± 1.45	
Pre_HD_CRP	18.26 ± 2.16	0.052
Pre_HP_CRP	18.5 ± 1.99	
Post_HD_CRP	4.81 ± 0.41	0.000
Post_HP_CRP	1.02 ± 0.61	

value of *P* < 0.05 shows significance.

CRP, C-reactive protein; HD, hemodialysis group; HP, hemodialysis-hemoperfusion group; IL, interleukin; TNF-α, tumor necrosis factor-α.

difference between the groups in terms of sex (*P* = 0.519) and primary disease (*P* = 0.599). Variables, including age, body mass index (BMI), and gender for both groups (hemodialysis, HD; hemoperfusion, HP), were determined using SPSS version 23.0 ANOVA Test (Table 3). Age in the HD group is 480.033 between the group and 4.924 within the group. Age in the HP group is 36.790 between the group and 144.096 within the group. BMI in HD group is 4.855 between the group and 3.831 within the group, whereas and BMI in HP group is 8.531 between the group and 3.929 within the group. Gender in HD group was 0.209 between the group and 0.265 within the group and the gender in HP group was 0.340 between the group and 0.228 within the group. All variables have (*P* < 0.05). S. Cr, blood urea nitrogen (BUN) and β2-MG, TNF-a, IL-1, IL -6 and CRP, PTH, Hcy, and blood phosphorus (BP) are also continuous variables expressed as mean ± standard deviation (Tables 4–6 and Fig. 2). These variables were compared between the two groups.

**Table 6**  
**Changes of serological indexes before and after treatment.**

Pre_HD_PTH	59.45 ± 6.97	0.107
Pre_HP_PTH	61.32 ± 4.82	
Post_HD_PTH	39.12 ± 6.71	0.000
Post_HP_PTH	21.86 ± 2.42	
Pre_HD_Hcy	37.55 ± 1.88	0.159
Pre_HP_Hcy	39.1 ± 6.8	
Post_HD_Hcy	21.81 ± 2.47	0.015
Post_HP_Hcy	20.60 ± 1.91	
Pre_HD_BP	3.08 ± 0.93	0.001
Pre_HP_BP	4.00 ± 1.43	
Post_HD_BP	2.02 ± 0.66	0.125
Post_HP_BP	1.85 ± 0.44	

*P* < 0.05 is significant.

BP, blood phosphorus; Hcy, homocysteine; HD, hemodialysis group; HP, hemodialysis-hemoperfusion group; PTH, parathyroid hormone.

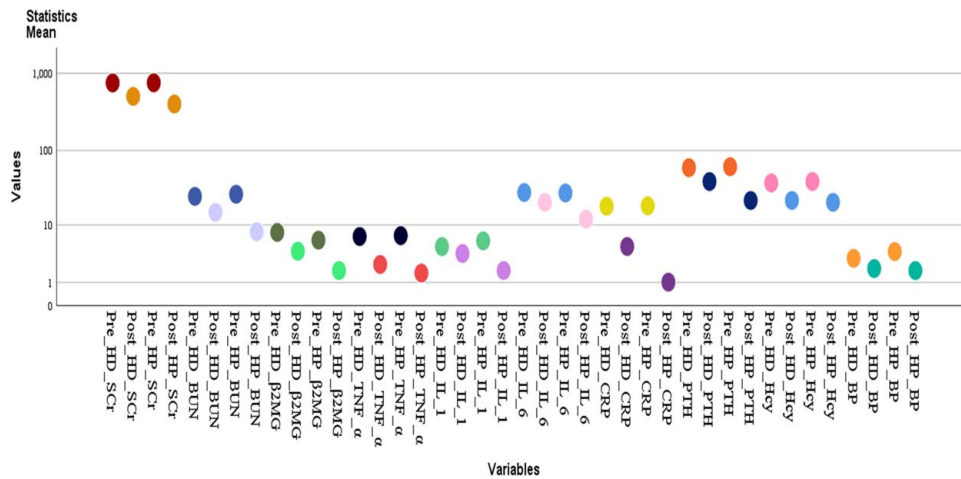


Figure 2. Comparison of means for renal function and serologic index and inflammatory markers.

**Comparison of renal function indices**

By comparing the renal function indices before and after treatment, it was found that there was no significant difference in serum creatinine between the two groups before treatment ( $P > 0.05$ ), but BUN and  $\beta_2$ -MG were different. After treatment,

the renal function indices of the HP group were lower than those of the HD group ( $P < 0.05$ ). In addition, further intra-group comparisons showed that the levels of S. Cr, BUN, and  $\beta_2$ -MG in both groups before treatment were significantly higher than those after treatment ( $P < 0.05$ ). (Fig. 3) (Table 4).

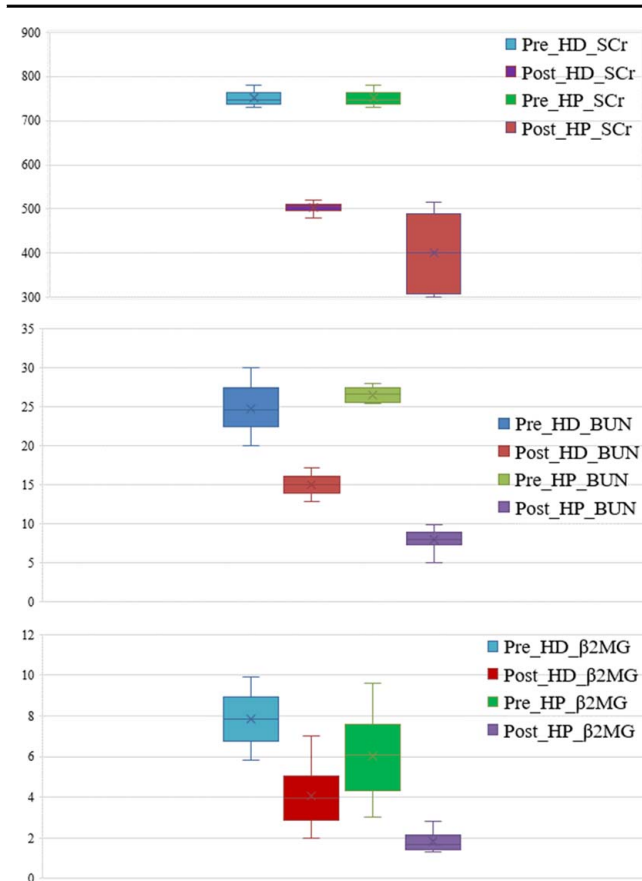


Figure 3. Comparison of renal function indexes before and after the hemodialysis (HD) and hemodialysis-hemoperfusion (HP) treatment.  $\beta_2$ Mg,  $\beta_2$ -macroglobulin; BUN, blood urea nitrogen; SCr, serum creatinine.

**Comparison of inflammatory factors before and after treatment**

By comparing the inflammatory factors before and after treatment, it was found that there was no significant difference in TNF- $\alpha$  and CRP levels between the two groups before treatment ( $P > 0.05$ ), but IL-1 and IL-6 levels were different. After treatment, the TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1, IL-6, and CRP levels of the HP group were obviously lower than those of the HD group ( $P < 0.05$ ). In addition, further intra-group comparisons showed that the levels of TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1, IL-6, and CRP in both groups before treatment were significantly higher than those after treatment ( $P < 0.05$ ). (Fig. 4) (Table 5).

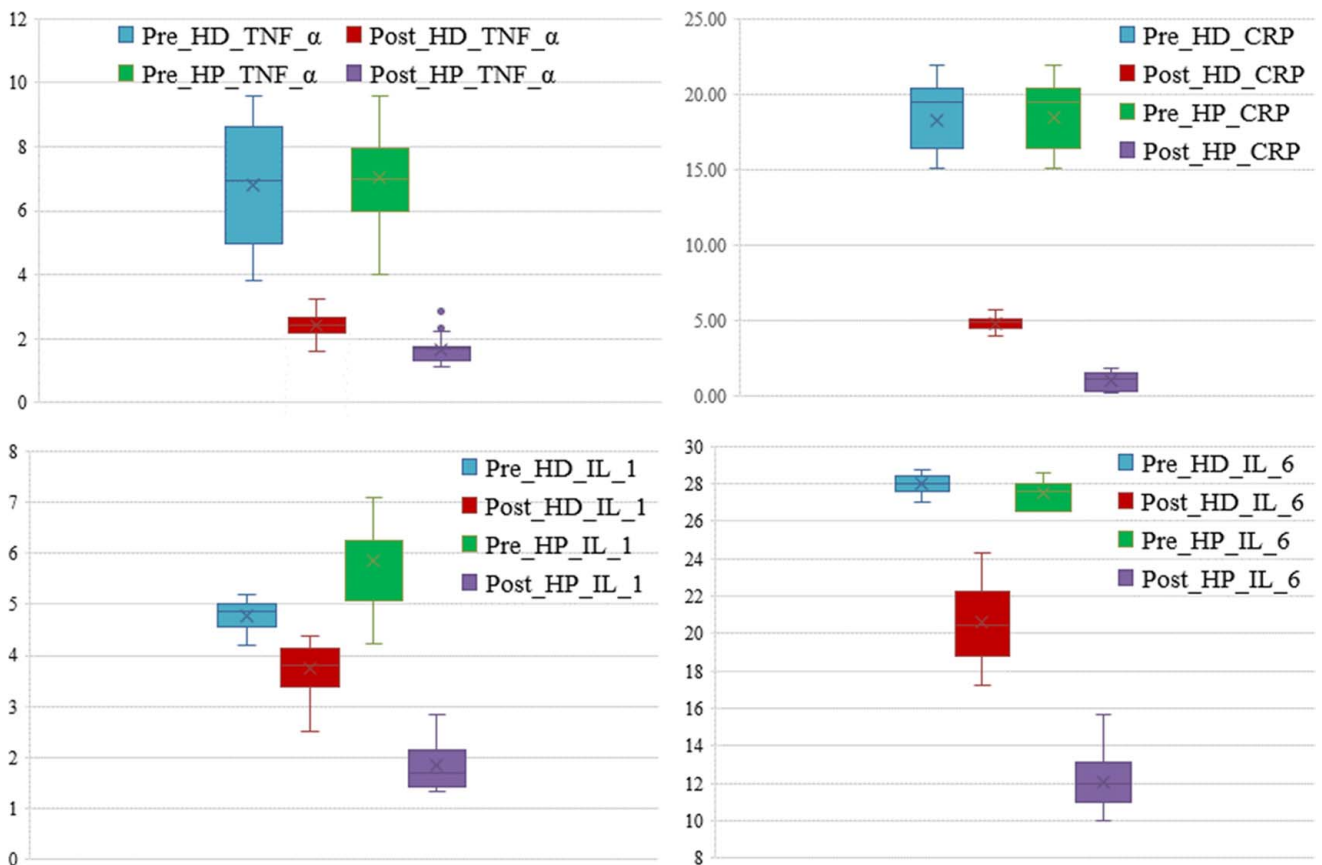
**Comparison of serological indices**

Comparison of the serological indices before and after treatment showed that there was no significant difference in PTH and Hcy levels between the two groups before treatment ( $P > 0.05$ ), but after treatment, the PTH and Hcy levels of the HP group were obviously lower than those of the HD group ( $P < 0.05$ ). BP levels showed a different trend; the values were significantly different between the groups before treatment. In addition, further intra-group comparisons showed that the PTH, Hcy, and blood phosphorus levels in both groups before treatment were significantly higher than those after treatment ( $P < 0.05$ ) (Fig. 5) (Table 6). For example, the mean value for BP was 4.0 in HP group before and 1.85 after treatments which shows great change of values.

**Adverse events**

In the HD group, adverse outcomes were observed in 23.81% ( $n = 10$ ) patients and in 9.55 ( $n = 4$ ) of patients in HP group. The HP group experienced fewer adverse outcomes than the HD group.





**Figure 4.** Comparison of inflammatory factors before and after the hemodialysis (HD) and hemodialysis-hemoperfusion (HP) treatment. CRP, C-reactive protein; IL-1, interleukin-1; IL-6, interleukin-6; TNF-α, tumor necrosis factor-alpha.

**Effectiveness**

The effectiveness in the HP group was  $41/42 \times 100 = 97.6\%$ , and in the HD group, it was observed to be  $36/42 \times 100 = 85.7\%$ , which was lower than that of the HP group (Table 2).

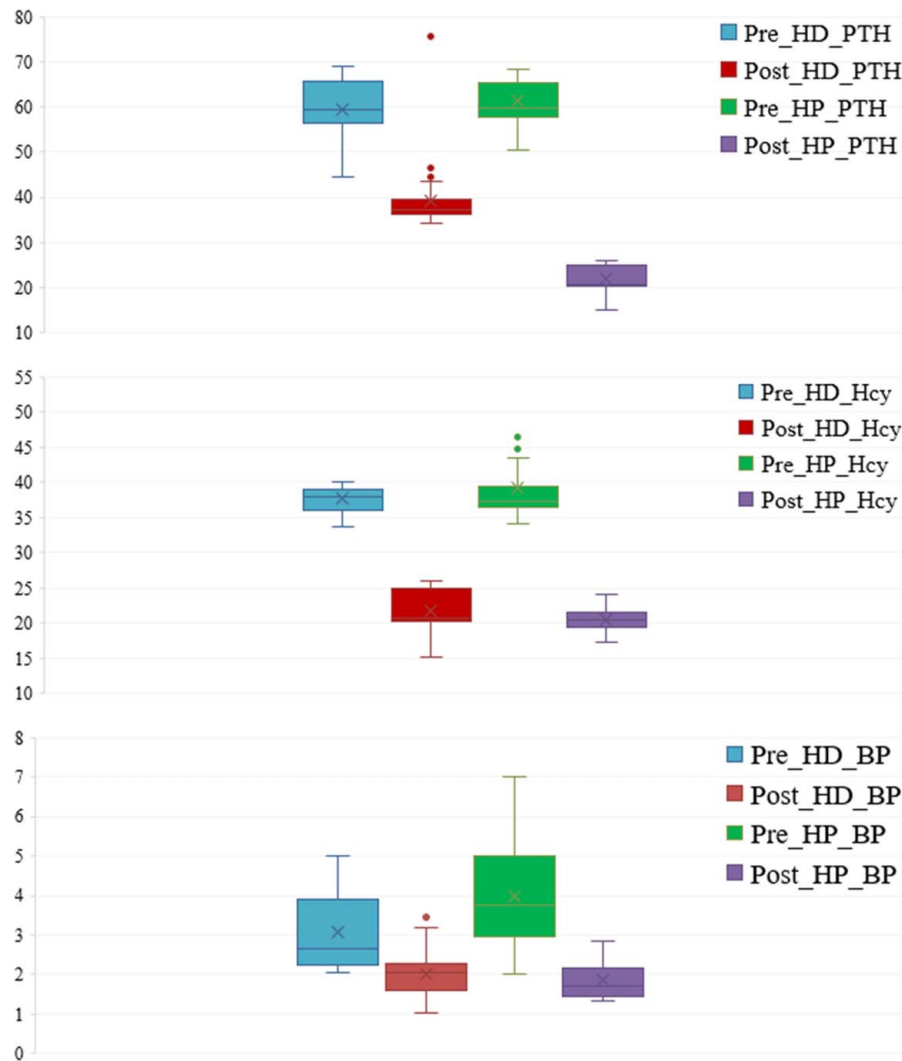
**Discussion**

CRF is a chronic disease that seriously threatens human health<sup>[22,23]</sup>. Clinically, some patients with early acute renal failure can recover within one month after treatment, but some patients can also delay for more than half a year<sup>[24]</sup>. The possibility of curing early renal failure is related to its pathological type, degree of severe organ involvement, complications, infection, and other factors, and there are significant individual differences<sup>[25]</sup>. Chronic kidney disease-related mortality has increased by 41.5% and the rate is increasing. Morbidity and mortality associated with renal failure and cardiovascular risk pose a serious burden on health systems globally<sup>[26]</sup>. In Pakistan, the prevalence of chronic renal failure ranges from 12.5 to 29.9% and the major cause is diabetic nephropathy<sup>[27]</sup>. According to statistics, nearly 90% of patients with CRF require hemodialysis. However, although dialysis techniques and drug therapy have made great progress, the dialysis mortality rate is still very high, ~18–20% per year<sup>[28]</sup>. At present, it is believed that the high mortality rate of patients is caused by failure to replace the

endocrine function of the kidney and insufficient toxin clearance during dialysis, which leads to various complications and poor prognosis. Therefore, it is necessary to develop a better plan to treat patients with CRF and improve its clinical efficacy.

Currently, dialysis is a common clinical kidney replacement therapy, which can be generally divided into hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis, among which hemodialysis is frequently used<sup>[29]</sup>. Hemodialysis is designed to treat patients by draining blood from the patient’s body to the outside of the body to remove metabolic wastes, toxins, and other useless substances in the blood, reducing the content of poisons in the blood, and then returning it to the body. Zhai *et al.*<sup>[30]</sup> showed that hemodialysis can significantly improve prognosis and enhance therapeutic effect in patients with chronic renal insufficiency complicated by coronary heart disease. However, hemodialysis has some disadvantages. Long-term hemodialysis may produce side effects including nausea, vomiting, convulsions, coma, and various complications (heart failure, coronary heart disease, severe anemia, and hypoxemia)<sup>[31,32]</sup>.

Hemoperfusion is one of the most used blood purification therapies in hemodialysis clinics. It also draws the patient’s blood from the body and removes toxins, drugs, and metabolic wastes that cannot be removed during dialysis through adsorbents in the perfusion device, thus achieving blood purification and disease treatment<sup>[33]</sup>. Therefore, the combination of hemoperfusion and hemodialysis in the treatment of patients with CRF can not only



**Figure 5.** Comparison of serological indexes before and after the hemodialysis (HD) and hemodialysis-hemoperfusion (HP) treatment. BP, blood phosphorus; Hcy, homocysteine; PTH, parathyroid hormone.

remove macromolecular toxins from the body but also effectively treat uremic complications, including peripheral neuropathy and stubborn hypertension, which is a potentially effective treatment scheme. In this study, patients with CRF undergoing hemodialysis combined with hemoperfusion were studied, and the renal function indices (S. Cr, BUN, B2-MG), inflammatory factors (TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1, IL-6, CRP), and serological indices (PTH, Hcy, and blood phosphorus levels) were analyzed and compared before and after treatment. This cohort was compared with a parallel cohort using hemodialysis only.

The results showed that there were no significant differences in serum Cr, TNF- $\alpha$ , CRP, PTH, and Hcy levels before treatment between the two groups, but after treatment, the levels in the HP group were significantly lower than those in the HD group. Further intra-group comparisons showed that the indices of the two groups were significantly higher before treatment than after treatment, indicating that hemodialysis combined with hemoperfusion can effectively improve the renal function of patients, reduce inflammatory reactions, and improve the toxin clearance

effect, thus helping to reduce tissue damage and improve the treatment effect. The research of Wang *et al.*<sup>[34]</sup> shows that the combined treatment of hemodialysis and hemoperfusion can improve renal function, significantly reduce pruritus and anemia in patients with acute renal failure, and effectively reduce the incidence of adverse events, which is similar to our research.

In addition, we analyzed and compared the therapeutic effects on patients between the two groups. The results showed that the total effective rate of the patients in the HD group was significantly lower than that of the patients in the HP group, indicating that compared with hemodialysis alone, the combined treatment of hemodialysis and hemoperfusion is more conducive to improving the renal function of patients with CRF and can effectively improve clinical symptoms and abnormal signs.

At the end, we analyzed and compared the incidence of adverse reactions between the two groups. The results showed that the total incidence of adverse reactions in the HP group was obviously lower than that in the HD group, indicating that hemoperfusion can compensate for the inefficacy of hemodialysis

in removing some macromolecular substances and that the combination of the two can effectively reduce the complications and incidence of adverse reactions in patients with CRF.

In this study, we revealed the clinical curative effect of hemodialysis combined with hemoperfusion in patients with CRF and its influence on renal function indices and inflammatory factors. However, this study had some limitations. First, this was a retrospective study with a limited sample size, which may have led to inaccurate experimental results. Second, patients could not be followed up in this study; therefore, the long-term efficacy and prognosis of patients could not be compared and observed. Therefore, we hope to conduct more experiments and future studies to improve our research.

## Conclusion

Hemodialysis combined with hemoperfusion is effective in the treatment of patients with CRF. It can effectively improve the renal function of patients, reduce inflammatory reactions and complications, improve the toxin clearance effect and quality of life, and has high clinical application value.

## Ethical approval

Ethical committee of Abbas institute of Medical Sciences ERB number AIMS7575/2023.

## Consent

No written/verbal consent was availed from individual patients as the data was collected from the hospital record and not directly from the patient.

## Source of funding

The authors declare that they have no competing interest.

## Author contribution

Concepts: M.S.R.A. Resources: A.A., S.K.J. Data curation: M.T., A.A. formal analysis: S.T., A.Z. Methodology: A.A., F.A.H. Writing—original draft: B.B., A.A. Writing—review and editing: S.K.J., M.S.R.A., A.Z. Software: S.A. Supervision: M.A.

## Conflicts of interest disclosure

The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

## Research registration unique identifying number (UIN)

Researchregistry9859. <https://researchregistry.knack.com/research-registry#userresearchregistry/registerresearchdetails/658b80b2d81db40027714562/>

## Guarantor

None.

## Data availability statement

Data analysis files present, can be provided on reasonable demand.

## Provenance and peer review

Not commissioned, externally peer-reviewed.

## Acknowledgements

The authors acknowledge Dr Waheeda Khan Bhattani, Pathologist at National Institute of Health Islamabad, Pakistan for revising their manuscript.

## References

- [1] Borisov VV, Shilov EM. Chronic Renal Failure. *Urologia* 2017;1(supplement):11–8.
- [2] Li QM, Chena HR, Zha XQ, *et al.* Renoprotective effect of Chinese chive polysaccharides in adenine-induced chronic renal failure. *Int J Biol Macromol* 2018;106:988–93.
- [3] Qiu Z, Zheng K, Zhang H, *et al.* Physical exercise and patients with chronic renal failure: a meta-analysis. *Biomed Res Int* 2017;2017:7191826.
- [4] Zheng H, Liu Z. Effect of calcitriol combined with sevelamer carbonate on serum parathyroid hormone in patients with chronic renal failure. *Cell Mol Biol (Noisy-le-grand)* 2020;66:31–5.
- [5] Wanner C, Ketteler M. Chronic renal failure. *Dtsch Med Wochenschr* 2011;136:1591–3.
- [6] Padmanabhan A, Gohil S, Gadgil NM, *et al.* Chronic renal failure: an autopsy study. *Saudi J Kidney Dis Transpl* 2017;28:545–51.
- [7] Olsen E, van Galen G. Chronic renal failure-causes, clinical findings, treatments and prognosis. *Vet Clin North Am Equine Pract* 2022;38:25–46.
- [8] Koushik NS, McArthur SF, Baird AD. Adult chronic kidney disease: neurocognition in chronic renal failure. *Neuropsychol Rev* 2010;20:33–51.
- [9] Dhondup T, Qian Q. Electrolyte and acid-base disorders in chronic kidney disease and end-stage kidney failure. *Blood Purif* 2017;43:179–88.
- [10] Felxa J. Understanding creatinine and BUN levels in kidney patients: maintenance and management. *Int J Urol Nephrol* 2023;11:1–2.
- [11] Gao C, Zhang Q, Yang Y, *et al.* Recent trends in therapeutic application of engineered blood purification materials for kidney disease. *Biomater Res* 2022;26:5.
- [12] Hall PW, Vasiljevic M. Beta 2 -microglobulin excretion as an index of renal tubular disorders with special reference to endemic B alkan nephropathy. *J Lab Clin Med* 1973;81:897–904.
- [13] Assounga AG1,2. Beta 2 microglobulin in kidney failure: a review and an algorithm for renal replacement therapy. *Saudi J Kidney Dis Transplant* 2021;32:1214–20.
- [14] Petreski T, Piko N, Ekart R, *et al.* Review on inflammation markers in chronic kidney disease. *Biomedicines* 2021;9:182.
- [15] Li J, Chen J, Lan HY, *et al.* Role of C-reactive protein in kidney diseases. *Kidney Dis (Basel)* 2022;9:73–81.
- [16] Robinson BM, Akizawa T, Jager KJ, *et al.* Factors affecting outcomes in patients reaching end-stage kidney disease worldwide: differences in access to renal replacement therapy, modality use, and haemodialysis practices. *Lancet* 2016;388:294–306.
- [17] Cao Y, Tao R, Gao J, *et al.* Vascular access blood purification treatments in chronic renal failure: impact on quality of life. *Cardiovasc Re* 2023;1:12–7.
- [18] Couser WG, Remuzzi G, Mendis S, *et al.* The contribution of chronic kidney disease to the global burden of major noncommunicable diseases. *Kidney Int* 2011;80:1258–70.
- [19] Cheng W, Luo Y, Wang H, *et al.* Survival outcomes of hemoperfusion and hemodialysis versus hemodialysis in patients with end-stage renal disease: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Blood Purif* 2022;51:213–25.



- [20] Lu W, Ren C, Han X, *et al.* The protective effect of different dialysis types on residual renal function in patients with maintenance hemodialysis: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2018;97:e12325.
- [21] Mathew G, Agha R. for the STROCCS Group. STROCCS 2021: Strengthening the Reporting of cohort, cross-sectional and case-control studies in Surgery. *Int J Surg* 2021;96:106165.
- [22] Zadrazil J. Aetiology and a clinical picture of chronic renal failure. *Vnitr Lek* 2011;57:607–13.
- [23] Long M, Li QM, Fang Q, *et al.* Renoprotective effect of laminaria japonica polysaccharide in adenine-induced chronic renal failure. *Molecules* 2019;24:1491.
- [24] Pabst D, Sanchez-Cueva PA, Soleimani B, *et al.* Predictors for acute and chronic renal failure and survival in patients supported with veno-arterial extracorporeal membrane oxygenation. *Perfusion* 2020;35:402–8.
- [25] Hofmann JN, Schwartz K, Chow WH, *et al.* The association between chronic renal failure and renal cell carcinoma may differ between black and white Americans. *Cancer Causes Control* 2013;24:167–74.
- [26] GBD Chronic Kidney Disease Collaboration. Global, regional, and national burden of chronic kidney disease, 1990-2017: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017. *Lancet* 2020;395:709–33.
- [27] Imtiaz S, Ashar A. Epidemiology and Demography of Chronic Kidney Disease in Pakistan- a Review of Pakistani Literature. *Pak J Kidney Dis* 2023;7:2–7.
- [28] Saran R, Robinson B, Abbott KC, *et al.* US Renal Data System 2017 Annual Data Report: Epidemiology of Kidney Disease in the United States. *Am J Kidney Dis* 2018;71:A7.
- [29] Muller D, Goldstein SL. Hemodialysis in children with end-stage renal disease. *Nat Rev Nephrol* 2011;7:650–8.
- [30] Zhai H, Li L, Yin Y, *et al.* The efficacy of hemodialysis in interventional therapy in coronary artery disease patients with chronic renal insufficiency. *Ren Fail* 2016;38:437–41.
- [31] Ahmadmehrabi S, Tang WHW. Hemodialysis-induced cardiovascular disease. *Semin Dial* 2018;31:258–67.
- [32] Morfin JA, Fluck RJ, Weinhandl ED, *et al.* Intensive hemodialysis and treatment complications and tolerability. *Am J Kidney Dis* 2016;68:S43–50.
- [33] Ricci Z, Romagnoli S, Reis T, *et al.* Hemoperfusion in the intensive care unit. *Intensive Care Med* 2022;48:1397–408.
- [34] Wang G, Li Z, Zhang Y, *et al.* Comparison of combined hemodialysis and hemoperfusion with hemoperfusion alone in 106 patients with diabetic ketoacidosis and acute renal failure: a retrospective study from a single center in China. *Med Sci Monit* 2021;27:e922753.