Letter and Reply

Dialysis membranes in convective treatments

Sir,
Allow me to draw your attention to a most obvious omission in the article of Ronco et al. entitled ‘Dialysis membranes in convective treatments’ in a supplement supported by a grant from Gambro, Italy [1].

In Table 2 the authors’ selection of membranes used in convective therapies are listed. No mention is made of Polysulphone, manufactured by the Fresenius Company, although hydrophilic modified membranes manufactured by Membrana (DIAFES), Gambro (PA), Toray (PS), Minntech (PS), and PEPA (Nikkiso) are all listed. The failure to list the most commonly used high flux membrane is curious and must be attributed to author and editorial bias.

Monaco
Stanley Shaldon


Reply

Sir,
The attention of Dr Shaldon was correctly drawn by what he himself defined as a ‘most obvious omission’ in my paper entitled ‘Dialysis membranes in convective treatments’ [1]. Indeed the transcription of the original table from the screen into the hard copy of the table was incorrect and the Fresenius Polysulfone was omitted by mistake in the table.

In order to put Dr Shaldon’s mind at rest and, especially, to provide correct information to our readers I must officially apologize for the omission which was totally unintentional. The mistake is totally mine and no fault should be attributed either to the editors of the issue or to the publisher.

We use the Fresenius Polysulfone Membrane in different types and surfaces in a large percentage of dialysis patients in our own centre. Therefore there was no bias in the membrane listing but simply a misfortunate and unintentional omission.

To further corroborate these apologies and to reassure Dr Shaldon, we suggest to control our personal membrane listing in a recent publication entitled ‘Membranes and filters for Hemodialysis: Database 2001’ in a special CD ROM containing the characteristics of most of the existing dialyzers worldwide [2,3].

I hope this answer is satisfactory but nevertheless we are available for further assistance to any question or problem that may arise in the future.

Department of Nephrology
St. Bortolo Hospital
Vicenza
Italy