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Cancer Screening in the Dialysis Population, a Comparison of HD and PD.

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Much focus has been given to the comparison of hemodialysis (HD) and peritoneal dialysis (PD) in terms of outcomes while little attention has been given to the clinical care of these patients. The Health Plan Employer Data Information Set (HEDIS) has become a national standard in health care quality performance measures. As a benchmark of general care, we looked at how well HD and PD patients are meeting the HEDIS criteria for measures related to cancer screening: mammograms, cervical cancer screening, and prostate cancer screening.

All patients with a stable dialysis modality on day 91 of therapy were classified as HD or PD according to USRDS criteria. Subsequent eligibility for inclusion in each measure was determined following HEDIS 2000 specifications. The mammograms measure includes patients who initiated prior to 1/1/1998 and follows patients through 12/31/1999. The cervical and prostate screening measures include patients who initiated therapy prior to 1/1/1997 and follows patients through 12/31/1999. Results:

Measure	HD (Total N)	PD (Total N)	Odds Ratio
Mammograms	34.3% (15,028)	43.0% (1,794)	1.45*
Cervical Cancer Screening	22.5% (16,770)	27.0% (2,870)	1.28*
Prostate Cancer Screening	22.0% (16,533)	27.4% (2,499)	1.34*

Our study shows PD patients are more likely to have screening mammograms and are more likely to be screened for cervical and prostate cancer than HD patients. The low levels of screening are still an important care issue. Additional elements of care should be assessed in these patients since the overall death rates are very high.