

A Scale Development Study: Fluid Control in Hemodialysis Patients

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Objective: The aim of this study was to develop a valid and reliable measurement instrument to identify knowledge, behaviors and attitudes of hemodialysis (HD) patients about fluid control as these patients are inadequate in ensuring and sustaining fluid control.

Methods: The sample of this methodological study consisted of 276 HD patients who are being treated in two public and two private hemodialysis centers. The validity of the scale was assessed through content validity, construct validity and similar scale validity and its reliability through item analysis, internal consistency coefficient and test-retest. For the content validity of the scale, expert views were assessed through Law she technique and opinions of a Turkish language specialist were obtained.

Results: According to the explanatory factor analysis, the scale had 24 items and three sub-dimensions, namely, knowledge, behavior and attitude. The total variance explained was found to be 51.15%. The Cronbach alpha reliability coefficient of the Fluid Control in Hemodialysis Patients Scale (FCHPS) turned out to be 0.88 and Cronbach alpha for its sub-dimensions were 0.92, 0.80 and 0.67, respectively. The correlation value between test and retest was 0.94 ($p<0.001$). A moderate significant correlation ($r=0.58$, $p<0.001$) was found between the scale scores and the scores of the Dialysis Diet and Fluid Restrictions Nonadherence Questionnaire.

Conclusion: The "Fluid Control in Hemodialysis Patients Scale" that was developed has high validity and reliability. This scale can be used to measure knowledge, behavior and attitude of hemodialysis patients about fluid restriction.

Key words: Fluid control, hemodialysis, scale development