

Research priority setting in chronic kidney disease: a national workshop

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Background

Research aims to improve health outcomes for patients. However, the setting of research priorities is usually performed by clinicians, academics, and funders, with little involvement of patients or caregivers and using processes that lack transparency.

Objectives

To generate and prioritise research questions in chronic kidney disease (CKD) among diverse stakeholder groups.

Method

In a national research priority setting workshop with six breakout groups, patients with CKD (n=23), nephrologists/surgeons (n=16), nurses (n=8), caregivers (n=7), and allied health professionals and researchers (n=4) across Australia generated, voted on, and ranked the importance of intervention questions across four treatment categories: CKD stages 1 to 5 (non-dialysis dependent), peritoneal dialysis, haemodialysis, and kidney transplantation.

Results

Across all breakout groups, a total of 83 research questions were generated. The five highest ranking questions were as follows: How effective are lifestyle programs for preventing deteriorating kidney function in early CKD? What strategies will improve family consent for deceased donor kidney donation, taking different cultural groups into account? What interventions can improve long-term post-transplant outcomes? What are effective interventions for post haemodialysis fatigue? How can we improve and individualise drug therapy to control post-transplant side effects?

Conclusions

The research questions of high priority to stakeholders were focused on prevention, lifestyle, quality of life, and long-term impact. These prioritised research questions can inform funding agencies, patient/consumer organisations, policy makers, and researchers in developing and implementing a CKD research agenda that is relevant and important to key stakeholders.