



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS HAD DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS ON THE MORTALITY OF PATIENTS ON DIALYSIS**

### **Highlights**

- During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, mortality risk for both COVID-19–positive and other patients on hemodialysis fluctuated in line with two waves of the pandemic in the general population.
- Compared with hemodialysis patients treated in 2019, the mortality risk of COVID-19–positive patients on dialysis persisted at much higher levels across 2020, whereas the mortality risk of other patients on dialysis was elevated slightly and mainly during the pandemic peak period.
- Results from the study will be presented at ASN Kidney Week 2022 November 3–November 6.

**Orlando (November 5, 2022)** — New research has revealed elevated risks of death during the COVID-19 pandemic for both COVID-19–positive and other patients on hemodialysis compared with hemodialysis patients treated in 2019. The findings will be presented at ASN Kidney Week 2022 November 3–November 6.

The study relied on data from 63,216 patients undergoing hemodialysis in 2019–2020 at NephroCare centers of 23 countries in European and Middle East countries.

In line with two waves of the pandemic in the general population, two fluctuations of mortality risk were observed for both COVID-19–positive and other patients on hemodialysis (patients without a documented COVID-19 infection in Fresenius Medical Care’s electronic health record system). Compared with hemodialysis patients treated in 2019, the mortality risk of COVID-19–positive patients on dialysis persisted at much higher levels across 2020 (greater than 6.5-fold), whereas the mortality risk of other patients on dialysis was elevated slightly (less than 1.5-fold) and mainly during the pandemic peak periods.

“The COVID-19 pandemic had direct and indirect impact on the mortality of hemodialysis patients,” said corresponding author Yan Zhang, PhD, of Fresenius Medical Care. “Potential reasons of the increased mortality among patients without confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis could be undertesting or healthcare system capacity constraints. Quantifying

the magnitude of pandemic effects on patients with and without confirmed disease may benefit dialysis clinics to manage patients during critical events.”

Study: “COVID-19 pandemic effect on mortality of hemodialysis patients”

*ASN Kidney Week 2022, the largest nephrology meeting of its kind, will provide a forum for nephrologists and other kidney health professionals to discuss the latest findings in research and engage in educational sessions related to advances in the care of patients with kidney diseases and related disorders.*

*Since 1966, ASN has been leading the fight to prevent, treat, and cure kidney diseases throughout the world by educating health professionals and scientists, advancing research and innovation, communicating new knowledge, and advocating for the highest quality care for patients. ASN has more than 20,000 members representing 132 countries. For more information, visit [www.asn-online.org](http://www.asn-online.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).*

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