

# The Renal Association UK Renal Registry



## Comorbidities amongst Adult Patients starting Renal Replacement Therapy in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from 2013 to 2014

### **Lay summary**

For the full annual report chapters [click here](#) or visit <https://www.renalreg.org/reports/2015-eighteenth-annual-report/>

Many patients starting dialysis or going straight to kidney transplantation for kidney failure have one or more comorbid conditions. This means that they have one or more medical conditions on top of their kidney failure. This paper describes how good renal centres are at reporting these comorbid conditions to the UK Renal Registry (UKRR) and the proportion of patients with comorbid conditions starting renal replacement therapy (RRT) in 2013 and 2014.

### **Comorbidity data completeness**

Overall, data on comorbidity were available for 58% of patients, but this ranged from 90% in Wales and Northern Ireland to 53% in England. There were big differences between renal centres in 2014: 11 centres provided comorbidity data on 100% of new patients whilst eight centres provided data for less than 5% of new patients. Scotland does not provide comorbidity data to the UKRR and does not reported here.

### **The presence of comorbidity amongst patients starting dialysis or going straight to kidney transplantation**

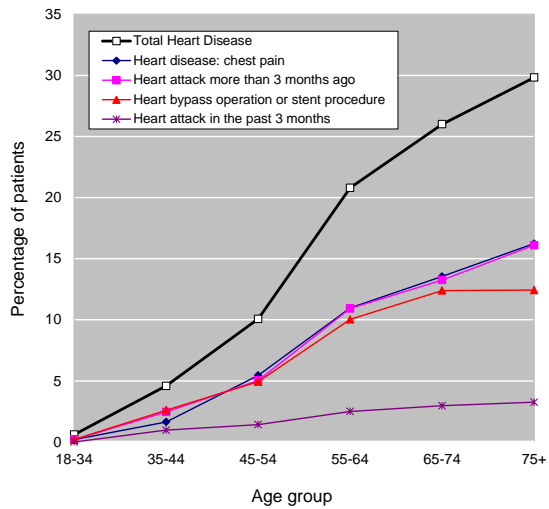
The most common comorbid conditions were diabetes and heart disease (Figure 1 and Table 1).

### **Comorbidity and ethnic group**

White patients had more comorbid conditions than Black and South Asian patients (Figure 2). Diabetes was more common in patients of South Asian and Black origin: 45% of South Asian patients and 34% of Black patients had diabetes compared to 23% of White patients.

### **Conclusion**

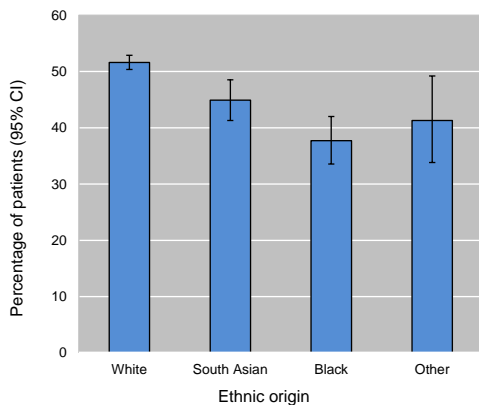
Over the last six years, approximately 60% of patients had some comorbidity data sent to the UKRR. In 2014 it fell to 55%. Complete comorbidity data is important if we are to understand differences in survival between renal centres and also to understand the relationship between comorbidities and how long patients can expect to live when they start dialysis. Renal centres need to work to improve comorbidity data completeness, rates of 90% are achieved in Wales and Northern Ireland, so it can be done. In the meantime the UKRR will explore other ways to work out patient comorbidity, such as from the general hospital or GP records.



**Figure 1** The presence of heart disease amongst patients starting dialysis or going straight to kidney transplantation in 2013-2014 according to their age

**Table 1** The percentage of patients with each comorbid condition at the time that they start dialysis or go straight to transplantation in 2013-2014

Comorbidity	Percentage of patients with the comorbid condition
Heart disease: chest pain	11
A heart attack in the past 3 months	2
A heart attack more than 3 months ago	10
A heart bypass operation or stent procedure	9
A stroke or mini stroke	11
Poor circulation to the legs	6
Leg ulcers due to poor circulation or nerve damage	4
Surgery or stenting for poor circulation	4
Amputation of a limb	3
Diabetes	36
Lung disease: chronic bronchitis or emphysema	8
Liver disease	3
Malignancy	13
Smoking	12
At least one of the above	50



**Figure 2** Presence of comorbid conditions when dialysis is started or when the patient goes straight to kidney transplantation