Early Patient Experience with the Tablo® Hemodialysis System

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Background

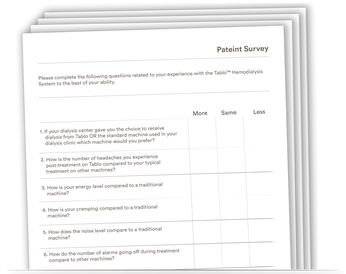
Patients on conventional in-center hemodialysis often experience a range of symptoms and disturbances during, immediately following, and between dialysis sessions. A goal for any innovation in hemodialysis is to minimize those symptoms. This study reports on the early patient experience using a new technology aimed at enabling in-center self care (ICSC), the Tablo® Hemodialysis System.

Purpose

The goal of this study was to compare the clinical experience of patients using the Tablo system compared to their experience using a conventional HD device. Specifically, symptoms during and between dialysis treatments were assessed.

Methods

A group of 33 patients in three dialysis units participated in the study. Surveys were completed after each of 152 dialysis treatments. Questions from the survey and results can be found below and in the results section.


Pateint Survey

Please complete the following questions related to your experience with the Tablo™ Hemodialysis System to the best of your ability.

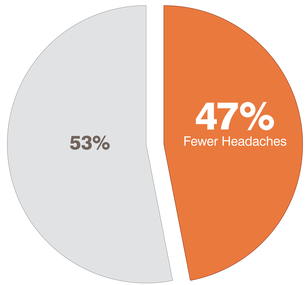
	More	Same	Less
1. If your dialysis center gave you the choice to receive dialysis from Tablo OR the standard machine used in your dialysis clinic which machine would you prefer?			
2. How is the number of headaches you experience post-treatment on Tablo compared to your typical treatment on other machines?			
3. How is your energy level compared to a traditional machine?			
4. How is your cramping compared to a traditional machine?			
5. How does the noise level compare to a traditional machine?			
6. How do the number of alarms going off during treatment compare to other machines?			

FIGURE 1:
Patient Experience

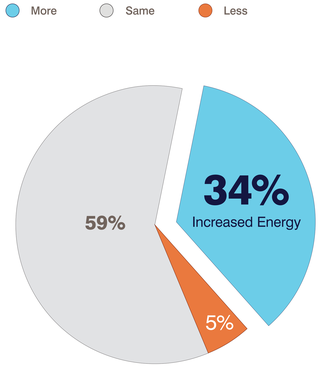
The touchscreen offers pictures, video and simple text to guide patients through set up steps. This eliminates the need for the patient to memorize set up or alarm resolution steps.

Survey Results

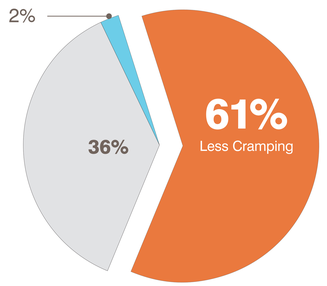
The patients included ranged in age from 28-80 years and had been on dialysis from eight months to over 20 years.



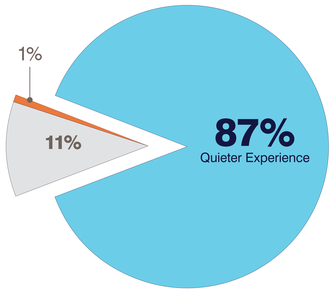
How is the number of headaches compared to a traditional machine?



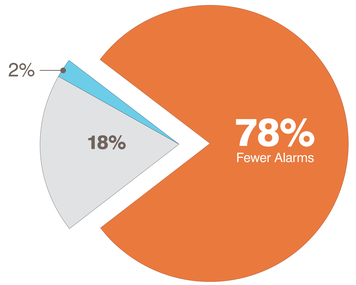
How is your energy level compared to a traditional machine?



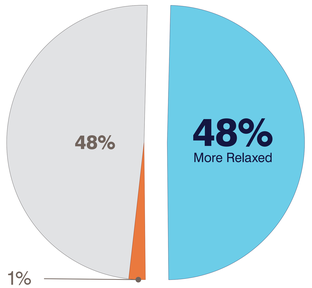
How is your cramping compared to a traditional machine?



What is the level of noise compared to a traditional machine?



How do the number of alarms going off during treatment compare to other machines?



Compared to your typical treatment on other machines, how relaxed do you feel during your treatment on Tablo?

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Discussion

- Patients report a favorable clinical experience with the Tablo system.
- This is an uncontrolled study and a Hawthorne effect could be important in the patients' responses.
- This study does not provide insight into why patients might have fewer clinical symptoms with the Tablo system. The Tablo system operates at a 300ml/min dialysate flow rate and utilizes a unique UF rate algorithm. Either one of these differences compared to conventional machines might be found in the future to explain the enhanced patient experience on the Tablo system.

Conclusions

Further controlled studies are needed to confirm these findings and to gain insight into why there might be a difference in the clinical experience on the Tablo system compared to conventional HD devices.

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