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.

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.

SURVEY RESULTS

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

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.