DIALYSIS ACCESS

CURRENT PRACTICE

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CURRENT PRACTICE

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Current Practice

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FOREWORD

As we enter the 21st century, it is striking to remember that clinical dialysis has been possible for only the last four decades. As with transplantation, there has been tremendous evolution. Patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) now have a number of alternatives for therapy — haemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis and transplantation. And care of the patient with ESRD requires an integrated program where patients can transfer from one modality to another.

Central to the care of the ESRD patient is a comprehensive dialysis program. For an individual patient, dialysis may be the primary therapy, may be done in preparation for transplantation, or may be initiated after failure of a kidney transplant. Critical to a successful dialysis program is a thorough understanding and appreciation of vascular access.

It is likely that most patients with ESRD, including those waiting for a cadaver kidney transplant, will spend years receiving dialysis. Thus, long-term planning is essential. Unfortunately, all too often, dialysis access surgery is not given appropriate attention. It must be appreciated that as a means for long-term dialysis, such surgery is life-saving. Importantly, there are a limited number of surgical options for any one patient. And unless the access surgery is done properly, the options may be rapidly used up.

This volume provides the global perspective necessary for planning, initiation, and long-term care of dialysis access. Detailed are the algorithms for the initial choice of access and how to care for access-related morbidity. Important consideration is given to reoperative surgery and to access surgery for patients with technically challenging issues. The indispensable roles of both diagnostic and interventional radiology and of nursing care of dialysis access sites are delineated.

Written by individuals experienced in the field, this volume provides insight into this difficult area. The required team approach — nephrology,

surgery, nursing and radiology — is readily apparent. This volume, edited by two experts in the field, summarises current practices and provides a stepping stone for the future.

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