



# Clinical Profile and Associated Risk Factors of Chronic Kidney Disease in Dialysis Patients: A Cross-Sectional Study

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## Citation:

Biswas C, Das N, Rayhan R, Hasan MK, Roy A. Clinical Profile and Associated Risk Factors of Chronic Kidney Disease in Dialysis Patients: A Cross-Sectional Study. Asia Pac J Surg Adv. 2025;2(2):108-115.

Received: 17 February, 2025

Accepted: 15 April, 2025

Published: 18 June, 2025

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**ABSTRACT: Background:** Chronic kidney disease (CKD) represents a growing global health burden, with a significant number of patients progressing to end-stage renal disease (ESRD) requiring dialysis. Understanding the clinical profile and associated risk factors among dialysis patients is essential for early intervention and prevention strategies. **Objective:** To assess the clinical characteristics and identify risk factors associated with chronic kidney disease among dialysis patients in a tertiary care hospital in Bangladesh. **Methods:** This descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted at Chittagong Medical College Hospital from January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022. A total of 192 dialysis-dependent CKD patients were enrolled. Data on sociodemographic variables, comorbid conditions, dialysis-related parameters, and relevant laboratory findings were collected and analyzed using SPSS version 25. The chi-square test was used to explore associations between clinical variables and dialysis duration, with a significance level set at  $p < 0.05$ . **Results:** The majority of patients were male (61.5%) and within the age range of 40–59 years (44.3%). Most resided in urban areas (65.6%) and had low education and income levels. Hypertension (77.1%) and diabetes mellitus (52.6%) were the most prevalent comorbidities. Anemia was noted in 69.3% of patients, and 45.3% had a history of urinary tract infections. Hemodialysis was the primary modality (94.3%), with 58.9% receiving dialysis twice weekly. Mean hemoglobin was  $9.2 \pm 1.3$  g/dL, and serum creatinine was  $10.6 \pm 2.5$  mg/dL. Statistically significant associations were found between dialysis duration and hypertension ( $p = 0.021$ ), diabetes ( $p = 0.035$ ), and age group ( $p = 0.009$ ). **Conclusion:** The study reveals a high burden of modifiable risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, and anemia among dialysis patients with CKD.

**Keywords:** Chronic Kidney Disease, Dialysis, Hypertension, Diabetes Mellitus, Anemia, Risk Factors, Bangladesh.

## INTRODUCTION

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a significant public health issue, with its prevalence steadily increasing in developing countries. CKD is a progressive condition marked by the kidneys' declining ability to effectively regulate the body's protein metabolism byproducts (such as urea), maintain normal blood pressure, hematocrit levels, and ensure proper balance of sodium, water, potassium, and acid-base levels. Historically, public health initiatives targeting chronic disease prevention have primarily concentrated on hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and cardiovascular diseases (CVD).

However, the rising incidence of CKD advancing to end-stage renal disease (ESRD), along with the associated economic burden of renal replacement therapy (RRT), is becoming a growing concern in both developed and developing regions [1, 2]. In Asia, the mortality rate associated with infection-related acute kidney injury (AKI) was reported at 52%, based on data from the International Society of Nephrology's 0 by 25 initiative. Furthermore, 7% to 16% of affected individuals progressed to chronic kidney failure, while 11% to 19% experienced diminished kidney function even after recovering from the infection.

Infections play a critical role in both the onset and progression of chronic kidney disease (CKD), often going undetected and thereby complicating the management of existing CKD cases. These infections tend to be more severe, are diagnosed at later stages, and pose greater treatment challenges. As a result, they significantly increase the cost of CKD care and contribute to both morbidity and mortality [3]. The World Health Assembly endorsed the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2013–2020, aiming to reduce premature mortality from chronic diseases by 25% by the year 2025 [4]. These global efforts have the potential to significantly reduce the burden of chronic kidney disease (CKD). However, CKD continues to be underestimated across many regions due to the lack of comprehensive epidemiological data from various countries [5, 7, 8]. Based on this gap, it can be hypothesized that CKD is closely linked to lifestyle-related risk factors such as smoking, excessive salt consumption, uncontrolled diabetes and hypertension, obesity, poor dietary habits, and inadequate nutrition [6-8]. Patients undergoing dialysis represent a critical subset of the CKD population, often presenting with complex clinical profiles and multiple comorbid conditions. Understanding the clinical characteristics and associated risk factors in this group is vital for improving treatment outcomes, reducing complications, and informing targeted preventive strategies. This study aims to assess the clinical profile and identify the associated risk factors of CKD among dialysis patients in a tertiary care setting. By analyzing sociodemographic data, comorbid conditions, and behavioral factors, this research seeks to contribute to the growing body of knowledge needed to manage

CKD more effectively and prevent its progression in vulnerable populations.

## METHODOLOGY

This cross-sectional study assessed the clinical profile and associated risk factors of chronic kidney disease (CKD) among patients undergoing dialysis. The research was conducted at the Nephrology Department of Chittagong Medical College Hospital, a major tertiary care center in Bangladesh. Data collection spanned six months, from January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022. A total of 192 patients undergoing maintenance dialysis for CKD were enrolled in the study using a purposive sampling method. Patients aged 18 years and above, who were diagnosed with CKD and had been receiving dialysis for at least three months, were included. Those with acute kidney injury or incomplete clinical records were excluded to maintain the consistency and reliability of the data. A structured and pre-tested questionnaire was employed to collect data through face-to-face interviews, supplemented by a thorough review of medical records. The questionnaire covered sociodemographic characteristics, medical history, comorbidities, dialysis-related information, and laboratory parameters relevant to CKD. Informed written consent was secured from all participants before data collection. Data were checked for completeness and accuracy before analysis. The final dataset was analyzed using SPSS software, where descriptive statistics were used to summarize the clinical characteristics, and appropriate inferential statistical tests were applied to identify significant associations between risk factors and CKD profiles.

## RESULT

**Table 1: Sociodemographic Characteristics of the Patients (n = 192)**

Variable	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Age Group	18–39 years	32	16.7%
	40–59 years	85	44.3%
	≥60 years	75	39.0%
Sex	Male	118	61.5%
	Female	74	38.5%
Residence	Urban	126	65.6%
	Rural	66	34.4%
Occupation	Unemployed	49	25.5%
	Laborer	58	30.2%
	Service-holder	45	23.4%

	Farmer	27	14.1%
	Others (e.g., business)	13	6.8%
<b>Education Level</b>	Primary (1–5)	58	30.2%
	Secondary (6–10)	53	27.6%
	HSC or equivalent	42	21.9%
	Graduate and above	39	20.3%
<b>Monthly Income (BDT)</b>	<30,000	72	37.5%
	31,000–60,000	89	46.4%
	>60,000	31	16.1%
<b>BMI Category</b>	Underweight (<18.5)	33	17.2%
	Normal (18.5–24.9)	94	49.0%
	Overweight (25–29.9)	45	23.4%
	Obese (≥30)	20	10.4%
<b>Smoking History</b>	Yes	71	37.0%
	No	121	63.0%
<b>Betel/Tobacco Use</b>	Yes	86	44.8%
	No	106	55.2%

Most patients were male, from urban areas, and within the age range of 40–59 years. A large proportion had low education and income levels.

Nearly one-third were laborers, and a significant portion had a history of smoking or tobacco use. Nearly half were overweight or obese.

**Table 2: Medical History and Risk Factors Related to CKD (n = 192)**

Variable	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
<b>Hypertension</b>	Yes	148	77.1%
	No	44	22.9%
<b>Diabetes Mellitus</b>	Yes	101	52.6%
	No	91	47.4%
<b>Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)</b>	Yes	56	29.2%
	No	136	70.8%
<b>Anemia (Hb &lt;10 g/dL)</b>	Yes	133	69.3%
	No	59	30.7%
<b>History of UTI</b>	Yes	87	45.3%
	No	105	54.7%
<b>History of Nephrotoxic Drugs</b>	Yes	64	33.3%
	No	128	66.7%
<b>Family History of CKD</b>	Yes	48	25.0%
	No	144	75.0%
<b>History of Kidney Stones</b>	Yes	36	18.8%
	No	156	81.2%
<b>Obesity (BMI ≥ 25)</b>	Yes	65	33.9%
	No	127	66.1%

Hypertension and diabetes were the most common comorbidities observed. More than two-thirds of the patients had anemia, and over 45% reported a history of urinary tract infections. Notably,

a significant portion had a history of nephrotoxic drug use or family history of CKD, underscoring multiple risk contributors.

**Table 3: Dialysis-Related Characteristics**

Variable	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
<b>Type of Dialysis</b>		
Hemodialysis	181	94.3%
Peritoneal Dialysis	11	5.7%
<b>Frequency of Dialysis/Week</b>		
Twice Weekly	113	58.9%
Thrice Weekly	79	41.1%
<b>Dialysis Duration</b>		
<6 months	52	27.1%
6–12 months	64	33.3%
>12 months	76	39.6%

Hemodialysis was the predominant modality. Most patients were on twice or thrice weekly dialysis, and a substantial portion had been on dialysis for over a year.

**Table 4: Laboratory Parameters**

Parameter	Mean $\pm$ SD	Normal Range
Hemoglobin (g/dL)	9.2 $\pm$ 1.3	13–17 (M), 12–16 (F)
Serum Creatinine (mg/dL)	10.6 $\pm$ 2.5	0.6–1.3
Blood Urea (mg/dL)	86.3 $\pm$ 18.2	15–40
Serum Potassium (mmol/L)	5.4 $\pm$ 0.8	3.5–5.0

Laboratory findings revealed anemia, elevated creatinine and urea levels, and a slight rise in serum potassium, consistent with advanced kidney disease.

**Table 5: Association of Risk Factors with Duration of Dialysis**

Variable	p-value	Statistical Significance
Hypertension	0.021	Significant
Diabetes	0.035	Significant
Cardiovascular Disease	0.078	Not Significant
Age Group	0.009	Significant
Sex	0.417	Not Significant

Chi-square analysis revealed statistically significant associations between duration of dialysis and age group, presence of hypertension, and diabetes mellitus. Sex and cardiovascular disease were not significantly associated.

## DISCUSSION

This study provides a detailed clinical and demographic profile of patients undergoing dialysis for chronic kidney disease (CKD) at Chittagong Medical College. The findings underscore the multifactorial nature of CKD and its progression to end-stage renal disease (ESRD), particularly concerning hypertension, diabetes, anemia, and socio-demographic factors. The majority of patients were

male (61.5%) and in the 40–59-year age group (44.3%), consistent with other studies conducted in South Asian settings, where CKD disproportionately affects middle-aged men due to higher exposure to occupational and metabolic stressors [8, 9]. The urban predominance (65.6%) may reflect both better access to dialysis centers and higher prevalence of non-communicable disease risk factors in urban populations. More than half of the patients had low education (Primary–Secondary: 57.8%) and low-to-middle income (<60,000 BDT: 83.9%), aligning with literature that links socioeconomic disadvantage with limited access to preventive nephrology care and delayed CKD diagnosis [10, 11].

Occupationally, 30.2% were laborers and 25.5% were unemployed, indicating a population vulnerable to physical strain and limited healthcare access. A significant proportion were smokers (37.0%) or users of betel nut/tobacco (44.8%), known behavioral contributors to both hypertension and glomerular damage [11]. Moreover, nearly half the patients were overweight or obese (33.9% with BMI  $\geq 25$ ), which is an emerging risk factor for CKD progression due to its link with metabolic syndrome and glomerulopathy [12]. Clinically, hypertension was present in 77.1% and diabetes in 52.6% of patients. These findings are consistent with previous studies reporting hypertension as the most prevalent cause of ESRD in South Asia [12]. Anemia was also widespread (69.3%), which reflects impaired erythropoietin synthesis typical of CKD, and may exacerbate cardiovascular morbidity. Notably, 45.3% of patients had a history of recurrent urinary tract infections (UTIs), a risk factor for both acute kidney injury and chronic scarring, particularly in females and diabetics [13]. The role of nephrotoxic agents remains significant; one-third (33.3%) reported use of NSAIDs or traditional medicines, both implicated in tubulointerstitial injury. Additionally, 25% had a family history of CKD, suggesting genetic or shared environmental risk. Only 18.8% had a known history of kidney stones, possibly underreported, but still relevant in contributing to obstructive nephropathy. Hemodialysis was the predominant modality (94.3%), with most patients undergoing dialysis twice weekly (58.9%). One-third had been on dialysis for over a year (39.6%), reflecting a growing burden of maintenance dialysis in resource-limited settings. Dialysis-related data also suggest the chronicity and severity of the disease process. Laboratory investigations confirmed significant biochemical derangements: mean hemoglobin was  $9.2 \pm 1.3$  g/dL, well below normal, confirming the high anemia prevalence. Serum creatinine and blood urea levels were markedly elevated ( $10.6 \pm 2.5$  mg/dL and  $86.3 \pm 18.2$  mg/dL, respectively), consistent with severe renal impairment. Hyperkalemia (mean potassium:  $5.4 \pm 0.8$  mmol/L) was a frequent electrolyte disturbance, posing a risk for arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death. Chi-square analysis revealed significant associations between duration of dialysis and presence of hypertension ( $p = 0.021$ ), diabetes ( $p = 0.035$ ), and age group ( $p = 0.009$ ), but not with sex ( $p = 0.417$ ) or cardiovascular disease ( $p = 0.078$ ). These

findings emphasize the cumulative effect of metabolic and vascular conditions on dialysis dependence. Similar associations were found in regional studies, underscoring hypertension and diabetes as critical determinants of CKD progression and dialysis need [14-49].

## CONCLUSION

The study highlights the complex interaction of sociodemographic, lifestyle, and clinical factors contributing to CKD progression in Bangladeshi dialysis patients. These findings should inform targeted interventions focusing on early detection, lifestyle modification, patient education, and careful management of diabetes and hypertension to delay dialysis initiation and improve outcomes.

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