

STATEMENTS ACCOMPANYING THE THESIS

Age-related and prognostic risk factors in dialysis patients

1. Renal failure shares common causes with cardiovascular diseases and dialysis patients have an unparalleled high cardiovascular risk. (*Semin Nephrol. 2005; 25:358-362*).
2. The excess risk for cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in ESRD is the final, detrimental consequence of a process that starts very early in renal diseases (*Nephrol Dial Transplant 2002; 17: 50–54*).
3. Cardiovascular disease is the major cause of death in patients with advanced chronic kidney disease (*J Ren Nutr. 2012; 22:120-127*).
4. Left ventricular hypertrophy and LV systolic dysfunction are pervasive alterations in ESRD patients and represent important risk factors for death and cardiovascular events in the dialysis population. (*Am J Kidney Dis. 2002; 40: 1202-1210*).
5. The Cox regression model is well suited also when the start of the exact exposure is unknown, as the expression of late deleterious genes in human beings.
6. In ESRD patients without onset of heart failure, cardiac natriuretic peptides and noradrenaline predict independently left atrial volume enlargement (*this thesis*).
7. High levels of asymmetric dimethylarginine increase the risk of cardiovascular events and death in end stage renal disease. (*this thesis*)
8. In ESRD the relationship between age and cardiomyopathy depends largely on age-related risk factors which do not offer tested novel preventive strategies so far. (*this thesis*).
9. In patients with ESRD cigarette smoking is mainly regarded as a risk factor for cardiovascular complications but in theory the detrimental health effect of smoking in these patients may also extend to one of the most common endocrine alterations in this condition, namely hyperparathyroidism. (*this thesis*).
10. Changes in left atrial volume predict incident cardiovascular events in dialysis patients independently of the corresponding baseline measurement and of left ventricular mass index. Monitoring left atrial size by echocardiography is useful for monitoring cardiovascular risk in end stage renal disease patients (*this thesis*).
11. I like The Netherlands.