Continuous cycle peritoneal dialysis

This form of dialysis works on exactly the same principle as all forms of peritoneal dialysis (page 55). It was developed from CAPD and IPD. Continuous cycle peritoneal dialysis (CCPD) is less frequently used than CAPD but is a very satisfactory treatment.

Choice of Patients for CCPD

Continuous cycle peritoneal dialysis is used for similar reasons as IPD described in the previous chapter (page 99). Some people find it more convenient to dialyse themselves for 8–10 hours overnight than to perform CAPD (page 90) or to spend rather long periods on IPD (page 103).

IPD is more popular in Britain than in the USA.

Advantages of CCPD

These are very similar to those of intermittent peritoneal dialysis.

(1) The treatment is gentle and the technique easy to learn.

(2) Like CAPD and IPD, fluid and diet allowances are more generous than for the patient receiving haemodialysis. The gap between each CCPD treatment is approximately 14 hours.

(3) An important advantage is that the patient is able to treat himself at home without the help of a partner.
CONTINUOUS CYCLE PERITONEAL DIALYSIS

(4) The machine used is considerably smaller than that necessary for IPD and requires little space. Virtually any bedroom is large enough to accommodate a CCPD machine. It has wheels and can be pushed into a cupboard during the day.

(5) It follows that little or no modification of a patient's home is required to perform CCPD.

(6) If set up correctly the chance of peritonitis (page 90) is very small. Some people have treated themselves for more than 4 years without peritoneal infection.

(7) The machine is portable and can thus be used when away on business or holiday. Only a mains electricity supply is required.

Disadvantages of CCPD

(1) This is a slow treatment and the fact that it is performed every night proves irksome for some people.

(2) A chronic peritoneal dialysis catheter is necessary with its associated disadvantages – infection (page 96), bathing and others (pages 97 and 117).

Procedure for CCPD

Only an outline of the treatment will be given. Any person planning CCPD treatment will be taught the technique of the unit in question. Details differ from one dialysis unit to another and to some extent are modified to suit a particular person's needs. The following is an outline:

(1) The machine is plugged into the mains electricity supply and switched on.

(2) A large bag, or smaller bags, of dialysis fluid is placed on a drip stand which is part of the CCPD machine.