Study reveals risk of death after hurricanes for people on dialysis
14 July 2022

Many individuals with kidney failure rely on dialysis, but access to this life-sustaining therapy can be impeded by extreme weather events—such as hurricanes—that disrupt power, water, and transportation systems. A recent study in *JASN* found that patients undergoing dialysis face a higher risk of dying in the 30 days after a hurricane.

The researchers identified 187,388 patients and 27 hurricanes, and 29,849 patients were exposed to at least one hurricane. A total of 105,398 deaths were recorded in 529,339 person-years of follow-up on dialysis. (This means that among 529 patients, there were approximately 105 deaths over one year.) Hurricane exposure was associated with a 13% higher risk of death after adjusting for demographic and socioeconomic factors. Also, patients' risk of dying was highest immediately after a hurricane and waned over time.

"Our findings suggest that dialysis-dependent patients are vulnerable during hurricanes and highlight the need to safeguard this population, especially given the predicted increased hurricane intensity with climate change," said Dr. Blum. "Anything that disrupts someone's ability to obtain dialysis—including extreme weather—can put them at risk of death. There are groups such as the Kidney Community Emergency Response Coalition that seek to prepare for these events."

The article is titled "Hurricanes and mortality among patients receiving dialysis."

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Provided by American Society of Nephrology