



Northwest Renal Network

Helping Navigate Kidney Disease

Patient Bulletin

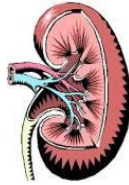


Our mission is to promote optimal dialysis and transplant care for kidney patients in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington

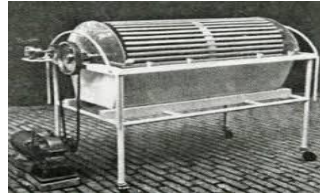
We Can Help With:

Care concerns
Patient rights
Treatment options
Transplant
Travel and dialysis
Questions about employment
Access to our library of resources

Understanding the Kidney Machine



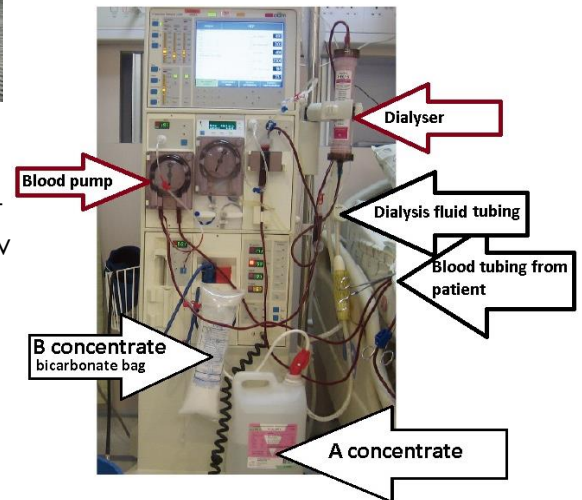
Original Equipment



1st Dialysis Machine

Whether you are new to dialysis or not so much, chances are you don't know a whole lot about what that machine sitting next to you, really does. There are different brands of machines, so it may not look exactly like the picture, but all do the same things cleaning your blood when your "original equipment" stopped doing it. Your machine pumps blood from your body and runs it through the machine to be cleaned. The machine has two parts, one side for blood and one side for a fluid called **dialysate**. There are different "recipes" of dialysate, depending on your needs. A thin membrane separates the two parts. As the blood from you and the dialysate passes thru the machine, particles of wastes from your blood pass through microscopic holes in that membrane. The wastes and excess fluid get washed away in the dialysate and down the drain. Blood cells are too large to go thru those holes in the membrane and get returned to you. *What about the **alarms** on your machine?* Those alarms tell your caregivers that something needs to be checked; like the rate of blood flow, the proper mixture of dialysate or temperature. There are many things the machine measures to keep you safe. Because of the different types of machines, you may have other questions. Don't be shy to ask any question about the machine that is helping to keep you healthy. It is your body. You need to know what is going on, in order to make good decisions about your health.

Today



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