

# A Comparative Analysis of Dialysis Patient Experiences in Lithuania and Europe

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**Methodology:** At the beginning of 2024, an anonymous survey conducted in dialysis centers covered patient demographics, treatment decisions, and change in employment status etc. Results were compared with a European survey.

**Results:** The survey was completed by 40 patients (age range 25-87 years). More than 80% of patients in both regions rated their treatment positively. The most important criteria for choosing a treatment method in both Lithuania and Europe were survival and quality of life. The opinion of nephrologist also played the most significant role in treatment decision-making (>70%). Nephrologists were identified as the primary source of information in both Lithuania and Europe (respectively 92.2% and 92.1%), though European patients received significantly more information from nurses ( $p<0.05$ ). The proportion of patients unaware of their kidney failure at treatment onset was similar in Europe and Lithuania. Company of other patients influence on treatment choice was significantly more substantial in Europe compared to Lithuania ( $p<0.05$ ). Dialysis significantly affected work capacity, with 43,75% reporting changed employment status; average physical capacity was 7.25 in Lithuania and 7.3 in Europe

**Conclusions:** The study found no significant differences in patient awareness and satisfaction with decisions between Lithuania and European countries. European patients received more information from nurses ( $p<0.05$ ) and had higher peer influence on treatment choice ( $p<0.05$ ).

**Keywords:** Dialysis, Patient Awareness, Treatment Satisfaction, Employment Impact, Comparative Study

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