Home Dialysis in Japan
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Contemporary Status

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Preface

The *Overview of Regular Dialysis Treatment in Japan* showed that in 2010, approximately 300,000 people with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) required renal replacement therapy. More than 95% of these patients undergo in-center hemodialysis, which is typically delivered three times a week. Dialysis therapy was originally introduced to support ambulatory patients able to work and participate in social activities. However, in recent years a large component of the patients receiving dialysis therapy were diabetic and elderly, which caused a drastic change in dialysis therapy. The aim of dialysis therapy was altered to prolong life without consideration of quality of life. In Japan after World War II, westernization had a profound impact on the diet and lifestyle of the people. In this situation, some patients wished to have dialysis therapy (peritoneal dialysis (PD) and home hemodialysis HHD) at home based on individual preferences. Since dialysis therapy was introduced, machines and solutions used in dialysis therapy have been greatly improved in Japan, extending the lifespan of patients receiving dialysis therapy to two to three times longer than that of other countries. The ingenuity and creative energy of the Japanese for producing new machines and systems for patients receiving PD and HHD may contribute to new developments and progression of home dialysis therapy in the world.

This book is intended to acquaint the reader of the fruits of recent progress made in PD and HHD therapy in Japan.

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