Blood Purification
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"Current Status and Challenges of Dialysis in Asian Countries"

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Lao PDR Country Status

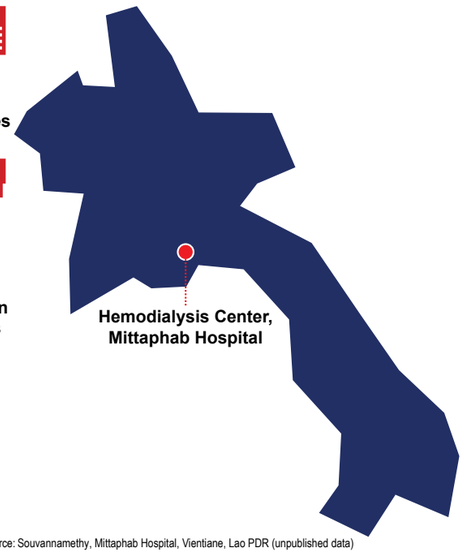
History of RRT in Mittaphab Hospital

- **1989** — Dialysis facility in Lao PDR established at Mittaphab Hospital
  - Supported by the government of Vietnam
- **1993** — Dialysis facility closed
- **1997**
- **1998** — Facility reopened at the beginning of the year
- **2005** — Nephrology Division of Mittaphab Hospital joined the Global Kidney Association, and started collaboration with the Division of Nephrology at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand
- **2011** — Dialysis facility upgraded to Hemodialysis Center at the end of the year
- **2016**
- **2017** — Hemodialysis Center began providing HD for pediatric patients after training in Vietnam

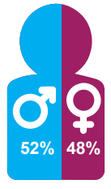
As of 2016, HD is available at only 12 sites across Lao PDR, serving 4913 HD patients.

7 government facilities (47 HD machines)

5 private clinics (46 HD machines)



Sex distribution of HD patients

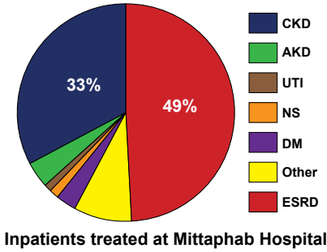


Source: Souvannamethy, Mittaphab Hospital, Vientiane, Lao PDR (unpublished data)

Mittaphab Hospital has the only HD center in the country.

Most CKD patients are referred by the Emergency Department with acute complications, including those with ESRD, and require HD.

- 7 doctors
- 19 nurses
- 18 dialysis machines
- 2 reverse osmosis water systems

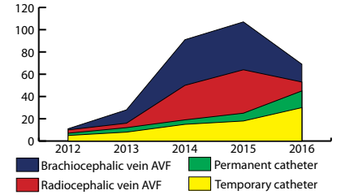


Inpatients treated at Mittaphab Hospital in 2008-2016 (N = 1010)

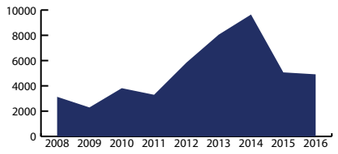
Source: Souvannamethy, Mittaphab Hospital, Vientiane, Lao PDR (unpublished data)

RRT at Mittaphab Hospital has steadily increased over the last decade, but dropped in 2014-2015 due to renovations at the center. Many patients have since moved to private clinics.

Number of patients that underwent vascular access surgery at Mittaphab Hospital



Number of HD treatments at Mittaphab Hospital



HD is not covered by insurance, and patients must pay 200 USD plus 60 USD for each follow-up visit.

This leads to irregular treatment.

Source: Souvannamethy, Mittaphab Hospital, Vientiane, Lao PDR (unpublished data)

Challenges going forward for Lao PDR (2017)

- Dialysis treatment is not covered by health insurance, resulting in irregular treatment.
- Kidney biopsy is not available in the country yet, so patients must travel to Thailand for biopsy and bear all costs.
- No regulatory body or association for kidney disease has been established yet in Lao PDR.
- There are no technicians to repair dialysis machines, so representatives are hired from companies, increasing costs and reducing efficiency.
- Water systems for dialysis are not regularly inspected.

Fig. 3. Souvannamethy, Blood Purif 2017;44(suppl 1):31–34.