**Exploring peoples’ experiences of being a parent with End Stage Renal Disease**

**receiving haemodialysis treatment: A qualitative Study**

**Background**: The prevalence rate of people with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) has increased over the years, with the impact of the illness and its treatments gaining attention more recently. Research has shown that receiving haemodialysis treatment impacts on most aspects of peoples’ daily lives. One area that has received less attention has been exploring peoples’ experiences of being a parent who receives haemodialysis treatment.

**Aims**: The objective of this study was to explore and gain an understanding of the lived experiences of patients that are parents and receive haemodialysis treatment for ESRD.

**Method**s: Ten parents who received haemodialysis treatment were interviewed using a semi-structured interview protocol. The interviews were then transcribed verbatim and then analysed using the method of Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA).

**Results:** Six mothers and four fathers were represented in this study, ages ranging between 28 to 49 years of age and with a median age of 41.9 years. Two Master Themes emerged from the data. The first Master Theme, *‘The Haemodialysis Experience’*, explores what it is like to live with the demands, necessity and process of haemodialysis treatment, as well as the side-effects of the treatment and the participants’ experience of the haemodialysis ward environment and professional care received. The second Master Theme focuses on *‘The Lived Experience of Parents with End Stage Renal Disease’*, which captures different aspects of being a parent; their perception of their children’s experience of having a parent with ESRD and their considerations on their own mortality and impact on family life.

**Conclusion**: Receiving haemodialysis treatment, along with its associated challenges, has been shown to impact on the person’s role and identity of being a parent. This research provides a valuable insight for Renal Care Professionals into the challenges experienced by parents receiving haemodialysis treatment, especially those with young children. Furthermore, it also provides health care professionals with ideas on how to support parents receiving haemodialysis treatment to ease the challenges and demands they are facing as a parent and as a person with ill health.