

NutriRite® IDPN Nutritional Therapy Provides Dialysis Patient and Mother New Lease on Life

Denise Kyle said she was a “mess” when she first went on dialysis. She couldn’t see. She couldn’t walk. She couldn’t drive. And, as the mom of two young children, Denise felt like she really couldn’t be there for her kids.

“I had to rely on my mom to take me anywhere I needed to go,” she said. “I had a vitamin A deficiency, really all of my levels tested low, and I kept having to go into the hospital. I would get infections. I just really couldn’t do anything and was sick all the time.”

Denise said she felt like she was at the end of her rope. She had unintentionally lost 7% of her body weight and her serum albumin, a major protein in the body that has a myriad of essential functions, dropped to 2.6 g/dL. Clinical evidence suggests that patients with albumin levels below 3.5 g/dL are at a greater risk for developing illnesses and even dying.



Denise Kyle, 43, and her children Tabitha, 6, & Manny, 9

“It’s scary thinking back to those days,” she added. “I was at the point where I would be willing try anything to see if it could help.”

In early 2016, Denise’s registered dietitian at Gateway Dialysis in Brooklyn, NY suggested that she try NutriRite® Intradialytic Parenteral Nutrition (IDPN, a nutritional therapy administered directly into her bloodstream during dialysis. Her doctor agreed that it could have a positive effect on her health as IDPN would provide Denise with extra protein (amino acids) and a small amount of carbohydrates (dextrose) to help her meet her weekly nutritional needs. Her RD referred her to Patient Care America and requested a very low-volume IDPN formula that contained 1.08 g/kg of protein, a multivitamin, and zinc. Denise began her first IDPN treatment during her dialysis session on March 18, 2016.

“It’s been unbelievable the difference that IDPN has made,” Denise said. “I’ve got my energy back. My levels are good. I’ve got my eyesight back. I can drive. I don’t even have issues with night vision now.”

Patient Care America’s Ann Pinnata, who services Denise’s dialysis clinic, completely agreed. “When I first met Denise, she looked weak, frail and malnourished,” Ann said. “But, when I came back to the clinic a few months after she started IDPN, she looked like a completely different person. She was alert, energetic and happy.”

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Denise's albumin levels also improved significantly her first six months on therapy, reaching 3.6 g/dL, the lower threshold of normal, in August 2016, and increasing to 4.0 g/dL in April 2017.

With two young children at home, Denise's dialysis clinic thought she would be a good candidate for home hemodialysis versus dialyzing at the clinic three times a week, but Ann said Denise wouldn't agree to home hemo until she was 100% sure she would still be able to do IDPN. "She absolutely loved the therapy and wasn't willing to sacrifice the improvements IDPN had provided in her health and energy," Ann added.

"Home hemodialysis sounded like a great idea, but my first question was would I be able to stay on IDPN," Denise said. "I was so afraid of going backwards, of losing my mobility, my eyesight, my energy again, that I would only change modalities if I was able to continue doing IDPN."

Denise was pleased to learn that she could still undergo IDPN therapy on home hemodialysis. She started her IDPN treatments while dialyzing at home in June 2017.

Each week, Denise receives three bags of her IDPN prescription from Patient Care America. The bags are kept in a refrigerator provided by Patient Care America and then brought to room temperature prior to using. During three of Denise's dialysis treatments each week, an IDPN bag is hooked to an infusion pump and the nutrients are provided through the dialyzer's venous drip chamber.

"I normally do my dialysis treatments in the evening after my husband gets home from work," Denise said. "By that time, the kids are all taken care of, showered and in their pajamas, and I'm able to start around 7 or 7:30. It has really given me my life back."

Denise said she would "absolutely recommend" IDPN and Patient Care America.

"I understand that we are on dialysis and sick, but anything we can do to help get healthier, stay out of the hospital, prevent infections and help our immunity – it's definitely worth it. I now have my energy – my life – back," she said. "And, everyone at Patient Care America has been great. Anytime I have a question or any type of need, I just pick up the phone and it gets resolved right away."

Denise hopes she will be able to undergo a kidney transplant in the future, but for now she is able to live again, be there for her children, and enjoy life thanks to her home hemodialysis treatments and IDPN nutritional therapy provided by Patient Care America.



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