

Transdermal dialysis

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My mother, who is 86 yrs old, has renal failure probably caused by her multiple myeloma. Her doctors have said that because of her poor health, an attempt at haemo- or peritoneal dialysis would most likely kill her. Her high blood urea level is also contributing to heart arrythmias.

I'm desperately clutching at straws here, but does anyone know whether it may be possible to use the skin itself as a dialysis membrane? I heard that urea can actually pass through the skin, and form a crystalline frost in severe uremia cases. Could urea and other blood toxins be somehow coaxed out from the skin capillaries by osmosis, perhaps by soaking the patient in a hot bath? Please say it will work!!

Thank you,
Leo

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