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IN BRIEF

DIABETIC NEPHROPATHY

Podocyte-derived microparticles—potential biomarkers of glomerular injury

Cyclical stretch and high glucose concentrations increase microparticle release in cultured human podocytes. In the streptozocin mouse model of diabetic nephropathy, microparticle release was increased compared to nondiabetic mice, and in another model, despite normal urinary albumin levels. Podocyte-derived microparticles generated in response to stress could be biomarkers of glomerular injury in diabetic nephropathy.

Original article Burger, D. *et al*. Urinary podocyte microparticles identify prealbuminuric diabetic glomerular injury. *J. Am. Soc. Nephrol.* doi:10.1681/ASN.2013070763

HYPERTENSION

Ineligibility among patients referred for renal denervation

Among 731 patients who were referred for renal denervation at 11 European expert centres, only ~40% were eligible for the procedure according to SYMPLICITY HTN-2 criteria and each centre's criteria. The main reasons for noneligibility were normalization of blood pressure after treatment adjustment (47%), unsuitable renal arterial anatomy (17%) and previously undetected secondary causes of hypertension (11%). These findings indicate the importance of referring patients to expert hypertension centres when considering renal denervation.

Original article Persu, A. *et al*. Eligibility for renal denervation. Experience at 11 European expert centres. *Hypertension* doi:10.1161/HYPERTENSIONAHA.114.403194

NEPHROTIC SYNDROME

CTLA4 polymorphisms in minimal change disease

New data suggest that single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) that reduce the expression of CTLA4 are associated with minimal change disease (MCD) in children. Ohl and colleagues report that the frequencies of two such SNPs at the *CTLA4* locus are increased in 96 children with biopsy-proven MCD (aged 10.7 ± 4.5 years) compared to 455 healthy adult controls. They hypothesize that the SNPs that decrease CTLA4 expression might be independent risk factors for the development of MCD.

Original article Ohl, K. *et al.* CTLA4 polymorphisms in minimal change nephrotic syndrome in children: a case-control study. *Am. J. Kidney Dis.* doi:10.1053/j.ajkd.2014.01.427

HYPERTENSION

SYMPLICITY HTN-3 trial shows no significant effect of renal denervation on systolic blood pressure

The SYMPLICITY HTN-3 single-blinded, randomized sham-controlled trial, which included 535 patients with resistant hypertension, showed no significant difference in change in office systolic blood pressure or 24 h ambulatory systolic blood pressure from baseline at 6 months in renal denervation and sham-control groups. These findings are in contrast to promising data from unblinded studies that report a reduction in blood pressure after renal denervation in patients with resistant hypertension.

Original article Bhatt, D. L. *et al*. A controlled trial of denervation for resistant hypertension. *N. Engl. J. Med.* doi: 10.11056/NEJMoa1402670