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IN BRIEF

MINERAL METABOLISM

Racial differences in phosphorous excretion in CKD

A new study shows an independent association between genetic African ancestry and level of urinary phosphorous excretion in African Americans with chronic kidney disease (CKD). In their analysis of 3,013 patients, Gutiérrez *et al.* found that each 10% higher percentage of African ancestry was significantly associated with a 39.6 mg lower level of 24 h urinary phosphorous excretion and a 1.1% lower fractional excretion of phosphorous. They conclude that genetic factors contribute to racial differences in urinary phosphorous excretion among patients with CKD.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Gutiérrez, O. M. *et al.* Genetic African ancestry and markers of mineral metabolism in CKD. *Clin. J. Am. Soc. Nephrol.* http://dx.doi.org/10.2215/CJN.08020715

THROMBOTIC MICROANGIOPATHY

Efficacy of eculizumab in paediatric aHUS

Eculizumab is currently the only approved treatment for atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome (aHUS), but data in paediatric patients are limited. Recent findings from a prospective phase II study in 22 children with aHUS suggest that eculizumab is safe and efficacious in this setting. After 26 weeks of treatment, 14 patients had a complete thrombotic microangiopathy response, 18 patients showed normalization of haematological parameters and 16 patients had a ≥25% decrease in serum creatinine levels from baseline. No serious adverse events related to eculizumab therapy were reported.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Greenbaum, L. A. *et al.* Eculizumab is a safe and effective treatment in pediatric patients with atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome. *Kidney Int.* http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.kint.2015.11.026

GLOMERULAR DISEASE

Vitamin D supplementation reverses renal injury

In patients with glomerular disease, vitamin D deficiency correlates with the occurrence of proteinuria, but vitamin D supplementation is controversial. Now, researchers report that 1,25-vitamin D_3 deficiency leads to glomerular injury and renal dysfunction in rats and in 25-hydroxyvitamin-D_3-1α-hydroxylase knockout mice. These animals developed proteinuria, partial podocyte foot process effacement and altered expression of podocyte markers, which could be prevented or reversed by supplementation with 1,25-vitamin D_3 or 1,25-vitamin D_2. The researchers speculate that early vitamin D supplementation might also prevent or reverse renal injury in patients with glomerular disease and chronic renal insufficiency.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Sonneveld, A. *et al.* 1,25-vitamin D3 deficiency induces albuminuria. *Am. J. Pathol.* http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ajpath.2015.11.015

GENETICS

Identification of new SLE risk variants

Researchers have identified 10 new susceptibility loci and confirmed 20 known susceptibility loci for systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in individuals with Asian ancestry. Sun *et al.* performed a genetic association study in 4,478 patients with SLE and 12,656 control individuals from six East Asian cohorts. Their enrichment analysis showed that functional variants at the newly identified loci alter the expression of genes with roles in B-cell and T-cell biology. The researchers suggest that these loci are potential therapeutic targets for SLE.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Sun, C. *et al.* High-density genotyping of immune-related loci identifies new SLE risk variants in individuals with Asian ancestry. *Nat. Genet.* http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/ng.3496