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## IN BRIEF

### PROSTATE CANCER

#### Does red meat increase risk of aggressive prostate cancer?

Increased intake of well-done grilled or barbecued red meat could increase the risk of aggressive prostate cancer, according to a study published in *PLoS ONE*. In a cohort of 470 cases and 512 controls, higher consumption of well-done meat conferred a higher risk of aggressive prostate cancer, but no association was seen with consumption of rare or medium-cooked ground beef. The authors postulate that the effect could be due to the production of meat mutagens at high temperatures.

**Original article** Punnen, S. *et al.* Impact of meat consumption, preparation, and mutagens on aggressive prostate cancer. *PLoS ONE* 6, e27711 (2011)

### URINARY TRACT OBSTRUCTION

#### Long-term results of $\alpha$ 1-blocker therapy in young men

Researchers from China have reported the long-term results of treatment with  $\alpha$ 1-blockers for primary bladder neck obstruction (PBNO) in young men. 30 men received doxazosin 4 mg once daily, with efficacy measured at 3 and 12 months using the International Prostate Symptom Score (IPSS), quality of life evaluation, uroflowmetry and postvoid residual volume. Doxazosin was not only safe and well tolerated but also reduced mean IPSS and postvoid residual volume, as well as improving uroflowmetry parameters.

**Original article** Li, B. S. *et al.* Long-term safety, tolerability, and efficacy of  $\alpha$ 1-adrenergic blocker in young men with primary bladder neck obstruction: results from a single centre in China. *Int. Urol. Nephrol.* doi:10.1007/s11255-011-0096-6

### INCONTINENCE

#### Tactile imaging for quantifying vaginal elasticity in prolapse

Based on principles similar to those of manual palpation, vaginal tactile imaging (VTI) could be used for imaging and tissue elasticity quantification. 31 women with and without prolapse were included in the study, with tissue elasticity (Young's modulus) calculated from spatial gradients in the resulting 3D tactile images. Tissue elasticity for the anterior and posterior compartments in women without prolapse were  $7.4 \pm 4.3$  kPa and  $6.2 \pm 3.1$  kPa, respectively, compared with  $1.8 \pm 0.7$  kPa and  $1.8 \pm 0.5$  kPa in women with Stage III prolapse. VTI could prove useful for 3D imaging of the vagina and quantitative assessment of vaginal tissue elasticity.

**Original article** Egerov, V. *et al.* Quantifying vaginal tissue elasticity under normal and prolapse conditions by tactile imaging. *Int. Urogynecol. J.* doi:10.1007/s00192-011-1592-z

### KIDNEY CANCER

#### Ubiquitin-mediated proteolysis genes mutated in RCC

A team from China has discovered 12 previously unidentified genes mutated at elevated frequencies in clear cell renal cell carcinoma (ccRCC). By sequencing whole exomes, they detected frequent mutations in components of the ubiquitin-mediated proteolysis pathway (UMPP), which were significantly associated with overexpression of HIF1 $\alpha$  and HIF2 $\alpha$  in the tumors ( $P=0.01$  and  $P=0.04$ , respectively). The UMPP might contribute to ccRCC tumorigenesis by activating the hypoxia regulatory network.

**Original article** Guo, G. *et al.* Frequent mutations of genes encoding ubiquitin-mediated proteolysis pathway components in clear cell renal cell carcinoma. *Nat. Genet.* doi:10.1038/ng.1014