IN BRIEF

TRANSPLANTATION

Living in a remote or rural location does not seem to reduce access to kidney transplantation. Analyzing a median of 2 years' follow-up data from 699,751 US adults on renal replacement therapy, Tonelli *et al.* were surprised to find that those who lived far from transplantation centers were no less likely to receive a kidney than those who lived nearby.

Original article Tonelli, M. *et al.* Access to kidney transplantation among remote- and rural-dwelling patients with kidney failure in the United States. *JAMA* **301**, 1681–1690 (2009).

ANEMIA

The novel erythropoiesis-stimulating agent Hematide™ maintained stable hemoglobin levels for up to 2 years in 100 patients on hemodialysis, according to a post hoc subanalysis of two phase II trials. Dosed intravenously every 4 weeks to achieve a target hemoglobin level of 100–120 g/l, the pegylated peptide was associated with adverse events in only 7% of patients, although 19% of the cohort required transfusions.

Original article Affymax Reports Phase 2 Sub-Analysis of Hematide™ in Hemodialysis Patients [online], http://www.investors.affymax.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=373470 (2009).

TRANSPLANTATION

Donor–recipient body surface area ratio might be a valuable indicator of long-term graft survival in pediatric kidney transplant recipients. In a review of 156 deceased-donor transplantations, those in which donor–recipient body surface area ratio was ≥1.2 had greater 5-year graft survival (97.1% versus 82.0%) and lower rates of acute rejection (18.8% versus 35.7%) than those in which the ratio was ≤0.8.

Original article Giuliani, S. *et al.* The effect of donor/recipient body surface area ratio on outcomes in pediatric kidney transplantation. *Pediatr. Transplant.* **13**, 290–299 (2009).

HYPERTENSION

The humble pea could delay or prevent hypertensive kidney damage, according to research presented at the American Chemical Society's 237th National Meeting. After 8 weeks of treatment with hydrolyzed proteins extracted from the yellow garden pea, rats with polycystic kidney disease exhibited a 30% increase in urine production and had blood pressure values 20% lower than those of untreated animals with the disease.

Original article Medical News Today. Fighting hypertension, kidney disease with proteins from garden pea [online], http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/143247.php (2009).