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IN BRIEF

GLOMERULAR DISEASE

Hypoalbuminuria associated with thrombotic risk in MN

Low serum albumin level, particularly a level below 28 g/l, is an independent predictor of venous thrombotic risk in patients with membranous nephropathy (MN). Lionaki *et al.* studied registry data from 898 patients with biopsy-confirmed idiopathic MN diagnosed between 1969 and 2007. Over a median follow-up of 37 months, 7.2% of patients had ≥ 1 thromboembolic event. Hypoalbuminuria at diagnosis was the only independent predictor of venous thromboembolic events on multivariate analysis.

Original article Lionaki, S. *et al.* Venous thromboembolism in patients with membranous nephropathy. *Clin. J. Am. Soc. Nephrol.* doi:10.2215/CJN.04250511

ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY

Increased time on CPB may not increase risk of AKI

A recent study published in *Hemodialysis International* reports that increased time on extrapulmonary cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) is not associated with an increased risk of acute kidney injury (AKI) requiring dialysis. Mancini and colleagues reported these findings after extracting data from 11,092 case record forms from a large observational study. Although increased time on CPB was associated with an increased risk of AKI requiring dialysis on univariate analysis, the statistical significance was lost after adjusting for confounders.

Original article Mancini, E. *et al.* Is time on cardiopulmonary bypass during cardiac surgery associated with acute kidney injury requiring dialysis? *Hemodial. Int.* doi:10.1111/j.1542-4758.2011.00617.x

HYPERTENSION

IL-6 involvement in hypertension and renal disease

Interleukin 6 (IL-6) has an important role in angiotensin (Ang)-II-induced hypertension and chronic kidney disease (CKD), say researchers. Zhang *et al.* found that expression of IL-6 was increased in kidneys of patients with CKD and even further increased in kidneys of patients with CKD and hypertension. Ang II caused IL-6 induction in mouse kidneys and genetic deletion of IL-6 led to reduced hypertension and a decrease in renal injury in Ang-II-infused mice.

Original article Zhang, W. *et al.* Interleukin 6 underlies angiotensin II-induced hypertension and chronic renal damage. *Hypertension* doi:10.1161/HYPERTENSIONAHA.111.173328

TRANSPLANTATION

Major role of nonadherence in kidney transplant rejection

A study investigating causes of kidney transplant failure reports that antibody-mediated rejection is the major cause of renal allograft failure after a biopsy for clinical indications, and highlights the importance of nonadherence in rejection. In total, 60 of 315 renal allograft recipients who had undergone biopsy for clinical indications (6 days to 32 years after transplantation) progressed to failure. Among 36 patients with rejection, 17 (47%) had been identified as being nonadherent to immunosuppressive medications.

Original article Sellarés, J. *et al.* Understanding the causes of kidney transplant failure: the dominant role of antibody-mediated rejection and nonadherence. *Am. J. Transplant.* doi:10.1111/j.1600-6143.2011.03840.x