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IN BRIEF

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Plasma renin and cardiovascular outcome

A study of the relationship between plasma renin concentration and cardiovascular events in 6,228 participants of the PREVEND study has reported an association between plasma renin level and risk of cardiovascular events in individuals not receiving antihypertensive therapy. After adjusting for factors known to influence plasma renin concentration, de Boer *et al*. found that each doubling of plasma renin level was associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular events and cardiovascular-related mortality (HRs = 1.28 and 1.59, respectively).

Original article de Boer, R. A. *et al*. Plasma renin and outcome in the community: data from PREVEND. *Eur. Heart J*. doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehs198

BIOMARKERS

GDF-15 predicts albuminuria worsening in type 2 diabetes

New research has identified growth–differentiation factor (GDF)-15 as a potentially valuable marker for predicting worsening of albuminuria in patients with type 2 diabetes. Hellemons *et al*. studied the ability of GDF-15 to predict transition to increasing stages of albuminuria in individuals from the PREVEND cohort. After adjusting for baseline albuminuria and estimated glomerular filtration rate, each standard deviation increase in GDF-15 level was associated with an odds ratio of 2.87 for transition of albuminuria stage.

Original article Hellemons, M. E. *et al*. Growth-differentiation factor 15 predicts worsening of albuminuria in patients with type 2 diabetes. *Diabetes Care* doi:10.2337/dc12-0180

RISK FACTORS

Renal dysfunction and blood pressure risk after cancer

Monitoring renal function and blood pressure (BP) in survivors of childhood cancer could help detect health problems at an early stage, say researchers. Knijnenburg and colleagues investigated renal outcomes and BP in 1,442 survivors of childhood cancer (median age 19.3 years, median time since cancer diagnosis 12.1 years). 28.1% of patients had at least one adverse renal outcome or elevated BP; 14.5% had albuminuria. Combined radiation therapy and nephrectomy was identified as a risk factor for elevated BP.

Original article Knijnenburg, S. L. *et al*. Renal dysfunction and elevated blood pressure in long-term childhood cancer survivors. *Clin. J. Am. Soc. Nephrol*. doi:10.2215/CJN.09620911

DIABETES

Resting heart rate and risk of renal outcomes in diabetes

Resting heart rate (RHR) is a predictor of cardiovascular and renal events in patients with type 2 diabetes, according to a new single-centre, prospective study of 1,088 patients with type 2 diabetes. In patients with a history of cardiovascular disease, researchers found an association between high RHR and an increased incidence of the composite primary outcome of fatal and nonfatal renal and cardiovascular events and an association between high RHR and an increased incidence of the secondary outcome of nonfatal renal events.

Original article Miot, A. *et al.* Prognostic value of resting heart rate on cardiovascular and renal outcomes in type 2 diabetic patients: a competing risk analysis in a prospective cohort. *Diabetes Care* doi:10.2337/dc11-2468