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IN BRIEF

HYPERTENSION

Blood pressure stability rather than blood pressure level is associated with increased survival

A study of patients on hemodialysis has shown that survival is better in patients with stable blood pressure (BP), independent of BP level, than in those who have increases or decreases in BP of >1 mmHg/month. In 10,245 patients, temporal changes in blood pressure during the first year of hemodialysis were associated with increased mortality; an analysis of survivors in the second year of dialysis showed similar findings. Use of cardioprotective drugs attenuated changes in BP and improved outcomes at all BP levels.

Original article Raimann, J. G. *et al.* Blood pressure stability in hemodialysis patients confers a survival advantage: results from a large retrospective cohort study. *Kidney Int.* doi:10.1038/ki.2011.426

BASIC RESEARCH

Involvement of CCR1 in hemolytic uremic syndrome

The chemokine receptor CCR1 contributes to the development of hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) by recruiting immune cells to the kidney and amplifying the inflammatory response, according to findings from a new study. CCR1-knockout mice treated with Shiga-toxin-producing bacteria had increased survival, decreased renal infiltration of neutrophils and monocytes, and a delayed increase in inflammatory cytokines compared with control mice. Thus, blockade of CCR1 could provide new therapeutic opportunities to prevent the development of HUS.

Original article Ramos, M. V. *et al.* Chemokine receptor CCR1 disruption limits renal damage in a murine model of hemolytic uremic syndrome. *Am. J. Pathol.* doi:10.1016/j.ajpath.2011.11.011

DIABETES

Bosentan improves endothelial function in diabetes

Blockade of the endothelin receptor using bosentan increases endothelial-dependent vasodilatation in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus and microalbuminuria, show investigators from Sweden. Increases in vasodilatation, determined by the digital reactive hyperemia index at 4 weeks, were significantly higher in patients randomly assigned to bosentan than in patients assigned to placebo. Bosentan can thus improve endothelial function in patients with diabetes-associated vascular complications.

Original article Rafnsson, A. *et al.* The endothelin receptor antagonist bosentan improves peripheral endothelial function in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus and microalbuminuria: a randomised trial. *Diabetologia* doi:10.1007/s00125-011-2415-y

DIABETES

Bmf promotes apoptosis and tubular atrophy in diabetes

Bcl-2-modifying factor (Bmf) has been identified as a proapoptotic gene differentially expressed in models of diabetes and in renal proximal tubules from patients with diabetes. *In vitro* studies showed that overexpression of Bmf promoted apoptosis in rat renal proximal tubular cells. By contrast, knockdown of Bmf reduced apoptosis. The overexpression of Bmf detected in kidney tissue from patients with diabetes suggests a role for this protein in the regulation of apoptosis and tubular atrophy in diabetes.

Original article Lau, G. J. *et al.* Bcl-2-modifying factor induces renal proximal tubular cell apoptosis in diabetic mice. *Diabetes* doi:10.2337/db11-0141