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IN BRIEF

POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE

New strategy for characterizing large ADPKD cohorts

Researchers have developed a new strategy for characterizing large populations of patients with autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD). Rossetti and co-workers used their approach of next-generation DNA sequencing to characterize a cohort of 230 patients with ADPKD. They found that their process was able to detect definitely and likely pathogenic variants in 115 (63%) of 183 patients with typical ADPKD.

Original article Rossetti, S. *et al.* Identification of gene mutations in autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease through targeted resequencing. *J. Am. Soc. Nephrol.* doi:10.1681/ASN.2011101032

GLOMERULAR DISEASE

Eculizumab may be useful for dense deposit disease and C3 glomerulonephritis

A new proof-of-concept study reports that eculizumab treatment may be effective in some cases of dense deposit disease and C3 glomerulonephritis. Bomback *et al.* treated three patients with dense deposit disease and three patients with C3 glomerulonephritis every other week for 12 months. After this time, serum creatinine levels had decreased in two patients, one patient showed decreased proteinuria, and one patient showed stable laboratory parameters but histologic improvements.

Original article Bomback, A. S. *et al.* Eculizumab for dense deposit disease and C3 glomerulonephritis. *Clin. J. Am. Soc. Nephrol.* doi:10.2215/CJN.12901211

TRANSPLANTATION

Conversion to everolimus might improve renal function

Conversion from ciclosporin to everolimus 4.5 months after transplantation can lead to improvements in renal function that are maintained for 3 years. These are the long-term results of the ZEUS study, which included 300 renal transplant recipients randomized to either continuing on ciclosporin or converting to everolimus after 4.5 months. At 3 years, mean estimated glomerular filtration rate was significantly higher in patients in the everolimus group than in the ciclosporin group. Although the incidence of biopsy-proven acute rejection was greater in the everolimus group, patient and graft survival were similar in the two groups.

Original article Budde, K. *et al.* Conversion from cyclosporine to everolimus at 4.5 months posttransplant: 3-year results from the randomized ZEUS study. *Am. J. Transplant.* doi:10.1111/j.1600-6143.2012.03994.x

CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

Kidney function can improve in some cases of CKD

Not all patients with hypertensive chronic kidney disease (CKD) are destined for renal failure, according to a recent publication. Hu *et al.* came to this conclusion following their analysis of data from 12 years of follow-up of the African American Study of Kidney Disease and Hypertension. Among the 949 CKD patients for whom at least three follow-up measurements of estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) were available, 31 (3.3%) showed a positive eGFR slope (mean +1.06 ml/min/1.73 m² per year) that could not be explained by random measurement variation.

Original article Hu, B. *et al.* Kidney function can improve in patients with hypertensive CKD. *J. Am. Soc. Nephrol.* doi:10.1681/ASN.2011050456