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IN BRIEF

HYPERTENSION

Between-arm blood pressure differences and mortality risk

A recent study reports that hypertensive individuals with differences in systolic blood pressure between arms might be at increased risk of death over a 10-year period. Clark and co-workers recorded blood pressure levels of 230 patients at three successive general surgery visits and found that mean between-arm systolic blood pressure differences of ≥ 10 mmHg and ≥ 15 mmHg were associated with increased risks of all-cause mortality (adjusted hazard ratios 3.6 and 3.1, respectively).

Original article Clark, E. *et al.* The difference in blood pressure readings between arms and survival: primary care cohort study. *BMJ* doi:10.1136/bmj.e1327

TRANSPLANTATION

Autologous MSCs in living-related renal transplantation

Autologous mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) may be a good alternative to antibody-based induction therapy in patients receiving living-related renal transplants, say researchers. Tan *et al.* randomized 159 patients receiving an ABO-compatible kidney transplant from a living related donor to receive autologous MSCs with standard-dose or low-dose calcineurin inhibitors (CNIs), or anti-IL-2-receptor antibodies with standard-dose CNIs. Autologous MSC use was associated with a reduced incidence of acute rejection, improved estimated renal function at 12 months, and a decreased risk of opportunistic infections.

Original article Tan, J. *et al.* Induction therapy with autologous mesenchymal stem cells in living-related kidney transplants: a randomized controlled trial. *JAMA* 307, 1169–1177 (2012)

DIABETIC NEPHROPATHY

Dietary sodium restriction can improve ARB effectiveness

A *post hoc* analysis of data from the RENAAL and IDNT trials shows that a low-sodium diet can increase the efficacy of angiotensin-receptor blockers (ARBs) in patients with type 2 diabetic nephropathy. A comparison of the treatment effects of ARBs and non-renin–angiotensin–aldosterone-system (RAAS)-based antihypertensive therapy in subgroups based on sodium intake showed that the treatment effects of ARBs versus non-RAAS-based therapies on cardiovascular and renal end points were greater in patients with lower versus higher sodium intake.

Original article Heerspink, H. J. *et al.* Moderation of dietary sodium potentiates the renal and cardiovascular protective effects of angiotensin receptor blockers. *Kidney Int.* doi:10.1038/ki.2012.74

TRANSPLANTATION

Thrombotic risk of EPO in kidney transplant recipients

Researchers in The Netherlands have reported that short-course high-dose recombinant human erythropoietin (EPO)- β does not reduce the incidence or duration of delayed graft function and/or primary nonfunction in kidney transplant recipients, and increases the risk of thrombotic events at 1 month and 1 year. "...our results increase the concern about thrombotic complications with high-dose EPO-stimulating agents," note the authors.

Original article Aydin, Z. Randomized trial of short-course high-dose erythropoietin in donation after cardiac death kidney transplant recipients. *Am. J. Transplant.* doi:10.1111/j.1600-6143.2012.04019.x