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IN BRIEF

BASIC RESEARCH

Pathogenic role for transglutaminase in IgAN

A study has revealed a role for a transglutaminase-mediated amplification loop in the pathogenesis of IgA nephropathy (IgAN). Mice expressing both human IgA1 and CD89 were used to demonstrate that mesangial deposition of IgA1 involves direct binding of soluble CD89 to the IgA1 receptor, Tfr1. This interaction induced mesangial surface expression of transglutaminase 2, which subsequently upregulated Tfr1 expression. Deficiency of transglutaminase 2 impaired IgA1–CD89 deposition.

Original article Berthelot, L. *et al.* Transglutaminase is essential for IgA nephropathy development acting through IgA receptors. *J. Exp. Med.* doi:10.1084/jem.20112005

RISK FACTORS

Association between high pulse pressure and proteinuria in Japanese individuals with diabetes

High pulse pressure is associated with proteinuria in Japanese individuals with diabetes, independent of other indices of blood pressure, say researchers. Yano *et al.* examined a nationwide database of 228,778 Japanese individuals aged ≥ 20 years of age. The association between high pulse pressure and proteinuria was only evident for patients with diabetes and did not exist for patients with prediabetes or normal glucose tolerance.

Original article Yano, Y. *et al.* Association of high pulse pressure with proteinuria in subjects with diabetes, prediabetes, or normal glucose tolerance in a large Japanese general population sample. *Diabetes Care* doi:10.2337/dc11-2245

TRANSPLANTATION

Arteriolar lesions are not specific for CNI toxicity

An investigation into the prevalence and clinical relevance of arteriolar lesions in renal transplant biopsy samples has revealed that these lesions increase in frequency over time and are not specific for calcineurin inhibitor (CNI) toxicity. The researchers assessed 1,239 protocol biopsy samples and 408 biopsy-for-cause samples. The frequency of arteriolar lesions was stable during the first 2 years after transplantation and then increased with time. Arteriolar lesions were also prevalent in late biopsy samples from patients not receiving CNI therapy.

Original article Bröcker, V. *et al.* Arteriolar lesions in renal transplant biopsies: prevalence, progression, and clinical significance. *Am. J. Pathol.* doi:10.1016/j.ajpath.2012.01.038

CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

Partial nephrectomy is associated with favorable renal outcomes in patients with small renal masses

A retrospective, observational study has concluded that partial nephrectomy (PN) is associated with more favorable postoperative renal function outcomes compared with radical nephrectomy (RN) in patients with small renal masses. Compared with patients who underwent RN, patients who underwent PN had a 1.9-fold increased risk of developing the primary outcome, chronic kidney disease $\geq$ stage 3.

Original article Sun, M. *et al.* Chronic kidney disease after nephrectomy in patients with small renal masses: a retrospective observational analysis. *Eur. Urol.* doi:10.1016/j.eururo.2012.03.051