Nature Reviews Nephrology 9, 370 (2013); published online 28 May 2013;
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IN BRIEF

HYPERTENSION

Excretion of urinary magnesium and hypertension risk

Researchers report that urinary magnesium excretion is inversely associated with hypertension risk across the whole range of usual dietary intakes. Joosten *et al.* used data from 5,511 individuals without hypertension in the PREVEND study, 1,172 of whom developed hypertension over a median of 7.6 years of follow-up. After adjustment for age, sex, BMI, and other factors, each 1-unit increase in natural-log-transformed urinary magnesium excretion was associated with a 21% decrease in the risk of hypertension.

Original article Joosten, M. M. *et al.* Urinary magnesium excretion and the risk of hypertension: the Prevention of Renal and Vascular End-Stage Disease Study. *Hypertension* doi:10.1161/HYPERTENSIONAHA.113.01333

TRANSPLANTATION

Development of sotrastaurin halted in kidney transplantation

Further development of the protein kinase C (PKC) inhibitor sotrastaurin for the prevention of acute rejection in kidney transplant recipients has been halted following the results of a phase II randomized controlled study. In patients who also received basiliximab, everolimus and prednisone, use of sotrastaurin was associated with a higher incidence of efficacy failure (a composite of acute rejection, graft loss, death, or loss to follow-up) at 12 months than was use of ciclosporin A, mainly due to higher incidence of acute rejection in the sotrastaurin groups. All deaths and graft losses occurred in patients treated with sotrastaurin.

Original article Tedesco-Silva, H. *et al.* Sotrastaurin in calcineurin inhibitor-free regimen using everolimus in *de novo* kidney transplant recipients. *Am. J. Transplant.* doi:10.1111/ajt.12255

DIABETIC NEPHROPATHY

Reversibility of diabetic nephropathy in a mouse model

A new study reports that the leptin-deficient BTBR *ob/ob* mouse is a useful model for studying advanced but reversible diabetic nephropathy. Pichaiwong *et al.* found that the restoration of leptin in these mice resulted in normoglycaemia and reduced body weight, as well as almost total reversal of structural and functional measures of advanced diabetic nephropathy, including podocyte loss, mesangial matrix expansion and proteinuria. By contrast, inhibition of the renin–angiotensin–aldosterone system did not reduce blood glucose level or body weight, or reverse the measures of diabetic nephropathy.

Original article Pichaiwong, W. *et al.* Reversibility of structural and functional damage in a model of advanced diabetic nephropathy. *J. Am. Soc. Nephrol.* doi:10.1681/ASN.2012050445

TRANSPLANTATION

Renal transplants without maintenance immunosuppression

A letter in the *New England Journal of Medicine* reports that combined kidney and bone marrow transplantation (without immunosuppression) can induce long-term stable tolerance in a large proportion of patients, despite only transient chimerism being induced. Kawai *et al.* report on the long-term follow-up of five patients from their earlier study and observations made after 3 years in five additional patients.

Original article Kawai, T. *et al.* HLA-mismatched renal transplantation without maintenance immunosuppression. *NEJM* 368, 1850–1852 (2013)