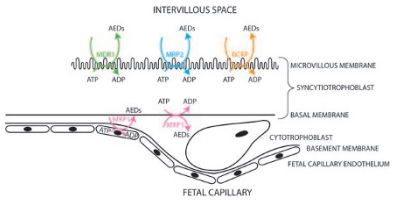
EDITOR'S FOCUS



Genetic variations in the expression and activity of placental drug transporting proteins can potentially influence fetal exposure to anti-epileptic drugs and the risk of teratogenicity. Identification of susceptible versus protective haplotypes may prove useful in assessing fetal risks when exposed to anti-epileptic drugs.

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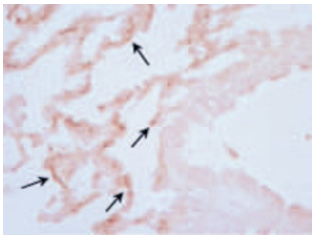

Connective tissue growth factor (CTGF) expression increases prior to the fibrotic phase of hyperoxic lung injury. Anti-CTGF strategies may attenuate this condition.

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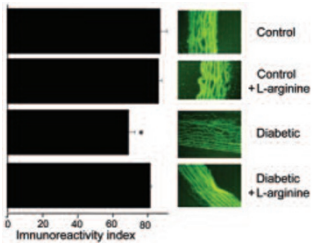

The bioavailability of nitric oxide is reduced in the adult offspring of diabetic mothers setting them for hypertension and glomerular hypertrophy. L-arginine supplementation increased nitric oxide production thereby correcting both hypertension and glomerular hypertrophy.

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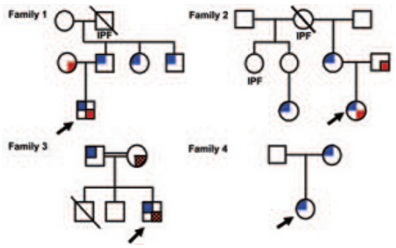

Heterozygosity for ABCA3 mutations in infants severely affected with interstial lung disease, a surfactant protein C gene (SFTPC) mutation, and independent inheritance from disease-free parents, supports a gene modifier role for ABCA3 resulting in the phenotype associated with the SFTPC mutation.

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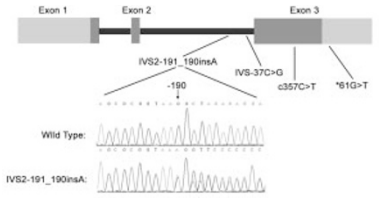

Analysis of fifth ewing variant (FEV) in genomic DNA obtained from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) cases revealed a heterozygous insertion mutation upstream of the 5' exon 3 splice site more frequently in the African American population than other groups. Since FEV is specifically expressed in central serotonin neurons, the present finding may explain the observed abnormalities of the serotonin system in some SIDS cases as well as the observed ethnic disparity.

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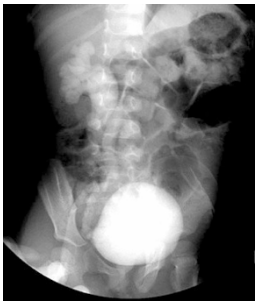

Increased genetic polymorphisms of transforming growth factor-B1 and vascular endothelial growth factor observed in children with urinary tract infection and vesicoureteral reflux could serve as genetic markers of these conditions.

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