

# CJASN

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## Patient Voice

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**1 Patients with Kidney Disease: Ready to Use Smartphones for Health Care Delivery?**

*Lana Schmidt*

*See related article on page 98.*

## Editorials

---

**3 Long-Term Safety of Tolvaptan in ADPKD: Where Do We Stand?**

*Dipal M. Patel and Neera K. Dahl*

*See related article on page 48.*

**6 Forever Starts Now: Effects of Glucose-Lowering Therapies on Acute Kidney Injury**

*Sradha Kotwal and Vlado Perkovic*

*See related article on page 70.*

**9 Dietary Therapy for Managing Hyperphosphatemia**

*Yoko Narasaki and Connie M. Rhee*

*See related article on page 107.*

**12 Mobile Health in Dialysis: The Best Engagement Medium Is the One that's with Patients**

*Karandeep Singh*

*See related article on page 98.*

## Original Articles

---

### Acute Kidney Injury and ICU Nephrology

**14 Acute Kidney Injury in a National Cohort of Hospitalized US Veterans with COVID-19**

*Benjamin Bove, Miao Cai, Yan Xie, Andrew K. Gibson, Geetha Maddukuri, and Ziyad Al-Aly*

**26 Prospective Cohort Study of Renin-Angiotensin System Blocker Usage after Hospitalized Acute Kidney Injury**

*Sandeep Brar, Kathleen D. Liu, Alan S. Go, Raymond K. Hsu, Vernon M. Chinchilli, Steven G. Coca, Amit X. Garg, Jonathan Himmelfarb, T. Alp Ikizler, James Kaufman, Paul L. Kimmel, Chirag R. Parikh, Edward D. Siew, Lorraine B. Ware, Hui Zeng, and Chi-yuan Hsu, for the ASsessment, Serial Evaluation, and Subsequent Sequelae in Acute Kidney Injury (ASSESS-AKI) study investigators*

### Chronic Kidney Disease

**37 NAT8 Variants, N-Acetylated Amino Acids, and Progression of CKD**

*Shengyuan Luo, Aditya Surapaneni, Zihe Zheng, Eugene P. Rhee, Josef Coresh, Adriana M. Hung, Girish N. Nadkarni, Bing Yu, Eric Boerwinkle, Adrienne Tin, Dan E. Arking, Inga Steinbrenner, Pascal Schlosser, Anna Köttgen, and Morgan E. Grams*

### Cystic Kidney Disease

**48 Multicenter Study of Long-Term Safety of Tolvaptan in Later-Stage Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease**

*Vicente E. Torres, Arlene B. Chapman, Olivier Devuyst, Ron T. Gansevoort, Ronald D. Perrone, Jennifer Lee, Molly E. Hoke, Alvin Estilo, and Olga Sergeeva*  
*See related editorial on page 3.*

## Diabetes and the Kidney

### 59 **Effects of the Soluble Guanylate Cyclase Stimulator Praliciguat in Diabetic Kidney Disease: A Randomized Placebo-Controlled Clinical Trial**

*John P. Hanrahan, Ian H. de Boer, George L. Bakris, Phebe J. Wilson, James D. Wakefield, Jelena P. Seferovic, Jennifer G. Chickering, Yueh-tyng Chien, Kenneth Carlson, Michael D. Cressman, Mark G. Currie, G. Todd Milne, and Albert T. Profy*

### 70 **Network Meta-Analysis of Novel Glucose-Lowering Drugs on Risk of Acute Kidney Injury**

*Min Zhao, Shusen Sun, Zhenguang Huang, Tiansheng Wang, and Huilin Tang*  
See related editorial on page 6.

## Geriatric and Palliative Nephrology

### 79 **Availability, Accessibility, and Quality of Conservative Kidney Management Worldwide**

*Meaghan Lunney, Aminu K. Bello, Adeera Levin, Helen Tam-Tham, Chandra Thomas, Mohamed A. Osman, Feng Ye, Ezequiel Bellorin-Font, Mohammed Benghanem Gharbi, Mohammad Ghnaimat, Htay Htay, Yeoungjee Cho, Vivekanand Jha, Shahrzad Ossareh, Eric Rondeau, Laura Sola, Irma Tchokhanelidze, Vladimir Tesar, Kriang Tungsanga, Rumezha Turan Kazancioglu, Angela Yee-Moon Wang, Chih-Wei Yang, Alexander Zemchenkov, Ming-hui Zhao, Kitty J. Jager, Kailash K. Jindal, Ikechi G. Okpechi, Edwina A. Brown, Mark Brown, Marcello Tonelli, David C. Harris, David W. Johnson, Fergus J. Caskey, and Sara N. Davison*

## Maintenance Dialysis

### 88 **Zolpidem Versus Trazodone Initiation and the Risk of Fall-Related Fractures among Individuals Receiving Maintenance Hemodialysis**

*Magdalene M. Assimon and Jennifer E. Flythe*

### 98 **The Mobile Health Readiness of People Receiving In-Center Hemodialysis and Home Dialysis**

*Wael F. Hussein, Paul N. Bennett, Sloane Pace, Shijie Chen, Veronica Legg, Jugjeet Atwal, Sumi Sun, and Brigitte Schiller*

See related Patient Voice and editorial on pages 1 and 12, respectively.

### 107 **Effect of Phosphate-Specific Diet Therapy on Phosphate Levels in Adults Undergoing Maintenance Hemodialysis: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis**

*David E. St-Jules, Mary R. Rozga, Deepa Handu, and Juan Jesus Carrero*

See related editorial on page 9.

## Research Letters

---

### 121 **COVID-19 in Peritoneal Dialysis Patients**

*Hua-Jun Jiang, Hui Tang, Fei Xiong, Wen-Li Chen, Jian-Bo Tian, Jing Sun, Jun-Wu Dong, Xiao-Hui Wang, Xiao-Fei Jin, Yan-Qiong Ding, Li Xu, Xiao-Ping Miao, and Chun Zhang*

### 124 **Anticoagulation Strategies and Filter Life in COVID-19 Patients Receiving Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy: A Single-Center Experience**

*Divya Shankaranarayanan, Thangamani Muthukumar, Tarek Barbar, Aarti Bhasin, Supriya Gerardine, Perola Lamba, Lorenz Leuprecht, Sanjay P. Neupane, Thalia Salinas, Daniil Shimonov, Elly Varma, and Frank Liu*

## Erratum

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### 127 **Correction**

## Genomics of Kidney Disease

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### 128 **Clinical Integration of Genome Diagnostics for Congenital Anomalies of the Kidney and Urinary Tract**

*Rik Westland, Kirsten Y. Renkema, and Nine V.A.M. Knoers*

## Kidney Case Conference: How I Treat

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### 138 **Walkaway PIRRT (as SLED) for Acute Kidney Injury**

*Anna Burgner and Thomas Golper*

## Perspectives

---

- 141 Gender and CKD: Beyond the Binary**  
*Sofia B. Ahmed, Nathalie Saad, and Sandra M. Dumanski*
- 144 Addressing Polypharmacy in Outpatient Dialysis Units**  
*Marisa Battistella and Patrick Ng*
- 147 Incremental and Twice-Weekly Hemodialysis Program in Practice**  
*Mariana Murea and Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh*
- 150 What Does Uromodulin Do?**  
*Anne Kipp and Eric Olinger*

## Feature

---

- 154 Optimizing Peritoneal Dialysis–Associated Peritonitis Prevention in the United States: From Standardized Peritoneal Dialysis–Associated Peritonitis Reporting and Beyond**  
*Jeffrey Perl, Douglas S. Fuller, Neil Boudville, Alan S. Kliger, Douglas E. Schaubel, Isaac Teitelbaum, Bradley A. Warady, Alicia M. Neu, Priti R. Patel, Beth Piraino, Martin Schreiber, and Ronald L. Pisoni*

## Review

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- 162 Klotho in Clinical Nephrology: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Implications**  
*Javier A. Neyra, Ming Chang Hu, and Orson W. Moe*

### On the Cover

#### *What is the diagnosis?*

A 74-year-old woman with past history of bronchial asthma (at the age of 50), diplopia, mononeuropathy multiplex, muscle weakness, paranasal sinus abnormalities, and positive for myeloperoxidase-ANCA (MPO-ANCA; at the age of 69) was admitted for the evaluation of kidney dysfunction because her serum creatinine levels had increased from 0.5 to 1.1 mg/dl (eGFR from 91 to 39 ml/min per 1.73 m<sup>2</sup>). Her body mass index was 22.1 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. Her white blood cell count was 25,500/ $\mu$ L, 59% of which were eosinophils. She had 3.3 mg/dl C-reactive protein, MPO-ANCA was <0.5 EU, proteinase 3-ANCA was <0.5 EU, and she was negative for anti-glomerular basement membrane antibody. The urine test showed mild proteinuria (0.49 g/d) and massive glomerular hematuria.

#### **Image Description:**

On light microscopy of a kidney biopsy specimen, nine out of 26 glomeruli showed cellular crescents, with rupture of the glomerular basement membrane, fibrinoid necrosis (left), and infiltration of eosinophils (right). Tubulointerstitial nephritis and infiltration of inflammatory cells and eosinophils were observed, particularly around the affected glomeruli (right). Immunofluorescence showed no immune deposits (pauci-immune pattern), and there were no electron-dense deposits on electron microscopy.

Left: A section stained with Periodic acid methenamine silver–Masson shows a cellular crescent (large black arrow), rupture of the glomerular basement membrane (small black arrow), and fibrin deposition (white arrow). Original magnification,  $\times$ 400.

Right: A section stained with hematoxylin and eosin shows fibrinoid necrosis (white arrow) with infiltration of eosinophils. Eosinophils were observed on tubulointerstitial nephritis (large black arrows) as well as on the affected glomeruli (small black arrow). Original magnification,  $\times$ 400.

#### **Teaching Points:**

Rapidly progressive GN on microscopic polyangiitis is characterized by a rapid loss of kidney function and the kidney biopsy specimen showing the formation of glomerular crescents, and eosinophilic infiltration is usually rare in the glomeruli. However, necrotizing crescentic GN with infiltration of eosinophils may suggest kidney disease related to eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis. Eosinophils may cause glomerular cytotoxicity by secreting fibrin-rich coagulant factors in eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis, in a mechanism involving IL-5. Eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis is a systemic small- and medium-vessel necrotizing vasculitis, characterized by tissue infiltration by eosinophils. It occurs in people with multiorgan lesions, including adult-onset asthma, mononeuropathy or polyneuropathy, and paranasal sinus abnormalities. These characteristics are different from those of microscopic polyangiitis. The frequency of positive MPO-ANCA is reported to be around 40%–50%. The relationship between disease activity and ANCA titer is not high as in microscopic polyangiitis, but the mechanism *via* IL-5 is reported to have a close association with the disease activity of eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis.

*Images and text provided by Naoya Toriu, Nephrology Center, Toranomon Hospital, Tokyo, Japan; Naoki Sawa and Junichi Hoshino, Nephrology Center, Toranomon Hospital, Tokyo, Japan and Okinaka Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Toranomon Hospital, Tokyo, Japan; Keiichi Kinowaki, Department of Pathology, Toranomon Hospital, Tokyo, Japan; and Yoshifumi Ubara, Nephrology Center, Toranomon Hospital, Tokyo, Japan and Okinaka Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Toranomon Hospital, Tokyo, Japan.*