Defining Left Ventricular Hypertrophy in Children on Peritoneal Dialysis

Dagmara Borzych,*† Sevcan A. Bakkaloglu,* Joshua Zaritsky,* Angela Suarez,** William Wong,‡† Bruno Ranchin,** Cao Qi,†† Attila J. Szabo,‡ Paula A. Coccia,** Jérôme Hambartab,‡ Florin Mitu,‡† Bradley A. Warady,*** and Franz Schaefer,† for the International Pediatric Peritoneal Dialysis Network

Summary

**Background and objectives** Left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH) is an important end point of dialysis-associated cardiovascular disease. The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of different pediatric reference systems on the estimated prevalence of LVH in children on chronic peritoneal dialysis (CPD).

**Design, setting, participants, & measurements** Echocardiographic studies in 507 pediatric CPD patients from neonatal age to 19 years were collected in 55 pediatric dialysis units around the globe. We compared the prevalence of LVH on the basis of the traditional cutoff of left ventricular mass (LVM) index (>38.5 g/m².7) with three novel definitions of LVH that were recently established in healthy pediatric cohorts.

**Results** Application of the new reference systems eliminated the apparently increased prevalence of LVH in young children obtained by the traditional fixed LVM index cutoff currently still recommended by consensus guidelines. However, substantial differences of LVM distribution between the new reference charts resulted in a marked discrepancy in estimated LVH prevalence ranging between 27.4% and 51.7%.

**Conclusions** Although our understanding of the anthropometric determinants of heart size during childhood is improving, more consistent normative echocardiographic data from large populations of healthy children are required for cardiovascular diagnostics and research.


**Introduction**

Notwithstanding the excessive long-term cardiovascular morbidity and mortality associated with childhood-onset chronic kidney disease (CKD) (1,2), the number of children dying from cardiovascular disease is small. Hence, cardiovascular research in pediatric CKD must focus on intermediate endpoints. Left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH) is one of the most consistent predictors of mortality in adults with CKD (3). The reported prevalence of LVH in children with CKD ranges from 17% to >80%, dependent mainly on the stage of disease (2,4–10).

However, the definition of LVH is a matter of ongoing controversy. When assessing left ventricular mass (LVM), age, gender, body size, and composition must be considered because metabolic demand and perfusion vary with stature and gender, determining the physiologic adaptation of heart size. The most commonly used method to express LVM in adults is an allometric index normalizing LVM to statural height raised to the power of 2.7 (the left ventricular mass index [LVMI]) (11). In adults, LVH is usually defined by an LVMI >51 g/m².7, a cutoff associated with increased cardiovascular morbidity and mortality (12). In children, cardiovascular outcome studies are lacking because of the low incidence of cardiovascular events. Therefore, the definition of LVH is based on convention upon the distribution of LVM in the general pediatric population. Until recently, LVH in children used to be defined by the fixed LVM partition value of 38.6 g/m².7, which defines the 95th percentile of LVM distribution in healthy children and adolescents from 6 to 17 years of age (13). The age-independency of the LVMI has recently been questioned for infants and young children (14,15), and the use of height-specific percentile charts or SD scores (SDS) for LVM has been advocated to establish the diagnosis of LVH in children (14,15).

The International Pediatric PD Network (IPPN) is a global consortium collecting detailed prospective information from a large cohort of children undergoing CPD. In most centers data collection includes echocardiographic measurements. Hence, the IPPN

*Medical University of Gdansk, Department of Pediatric Nephrology, Gdansk, Poland; †Center for Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, Heidelberg, Division of Pediatric Nephrology Germany; ‡Gazi University, Department of Pediatric Nephrology Ankara, Turkey; ‡‡Children’s Hospital at the University of California–Los Angeles, Division of Pediatric Nephrology Los Angeles, Division of Pediatric Nephrology California; †Hospital de Niños de La Plata, Department of Pediatric Nephrology La Plata, Argentina; *Stanish Children’s Hospital, Department of Nephrology Auckland, New Zealand; ‡†Hôpital Femme Mère Enfant, Hospices Civils de Lyon, Service de Nephrologie Pédiatrique Lyon, France; §§Children’s Hospital of Fudan University, Department of Nephrology Shanghai, People’s Republic of China; *Ssemmelweis University, Department of Pediatrics Budapest, Hungary; ‡‡‡Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Pediatric Nephrology Service Buenos Aires, Argentina; ‡Bordeaux University Hospital, Bordeaux, Unite de Nephrologie Pédiatrique France; ‡‡‡University of Medicine “Gr.T.Popa”, Pediatric Dialysis Unit Iasi, Romania; and ***Children’s Mercy Hospital, Division of Pediatric Nephrology Kansas City, Missouri

**Correspondence:** Dr. Dagmara Borzych, Medical University of Gdansk, Department of Pediatric Nephrology, 8-952, Gdansk, Poland. Phone: +48-58-3492850; Fax: +48-58-3453195; E-mail: dagab@gumed.edu.pl
database provides a unique opportunity to reassess and compare the effect of different indexation methods and reference systems on the calculated prevalence of LVH.

**Materials and Methods**

**Data Collection**

Data input to the IPPN registry is performed exclusively via an Internet-based web platform (www.pedpd.org). Data pertaining to basic patient characteristics are recorded at entry. Somatometric, clinical, and biochemical findings as well as data on peritoneal dialysis (PD) treatment modalities and medications are submitted every 6 months. Puberty status is assessed every 6 months by the Tanner scale.

In addition, the results of echocardiographic investigations and 24-hour ambulatory BP monitoring (ABPM) are recorded. In the echocardiography input section of the registry, left ventricular end-diastolic diameter (LVEDD), posterior wall thickness (PWT), and diastolic interventricular septal thickness (IVST) are reported. The echocardiographic input section is an optional field in the registry and it is completed whenever a patient has an echocardiographic assessment within 3 months from the 6-month clinical update.

Data protection is ensured by pseudonymized data input. The data are automatically checked for plausibility and completeness. The ethical committees/institutional review boards approved the registry protocol as required at each participating center. Written parental consent and, whenever appropriate, patient assent were obtained.

**Definitions and Statistics**

LVM was calculated according to the formula by Devereux: $LVM \, (g) = 0.8 \times [LVEDD + PWT + IVST]^{3/2} - \frac{LVEDD}{3}$ + 0.6 (16).

The following definitions of LVH were compared: (1) LVM exceeding 38.6 g/m².7 (13), (2) LVM exceeding the 95th percentile for gender and chronological age according to Khoury et al. (15), (3) substituting chronological age by height age (i.e., the age of a child of the same height growing at the 50th height percentile), and (4) LVM exceeding the 95th percentile (i.e., LVM SDS > 1.645) according to the lambda-mu-sigma (LMS) reference charts provided by Foster et al. (14). Associations were assessed by Spearman correlation analysis and linear regression analysis. A $P$ value of 0.05 was considered significant. Data were analyzed using SAS version 9.2 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC).

**Results**

**Patient Characteristics**

Five-hundred seven children and adolescents (54% boys, aged 3 months to 19 years) from 55 centers for whom at least one echocardiography was reported to the IPPN between April 2007 and February 2010 were analyzed. Of the patients, 24% were treated in Latin American, 17% in North American, 12% in Turkish, 30% in other European, and 17% in Asian centers. Thirty-seven were infants <1 year (7.3%), 66 (13%) were children 1 to 2 years of age, 55 (11%) were 3 to 5 years old, 75 (15%) were 6 to 9 years old, 150 (29%) were 10 to 14 years old, 97 (19%) were 15 to 18 years old, and 27 (5%) were young adults older than 18 years of age. The median (interquartile range) cumulative time on dialysis at the time of study was 1.7 (1.93) years, the median height SDS was $-2.08 \pm 2.13$, and the median body mass index (BMI) SDS was 0.21 (1.53).

**Effect of Reference System on Diagnosis of LVH**

Indexing LVM to height to the allometric power of 2.7 resulted in an inverse correlation with height in children shorter than 130 cm (Figure 1).

Figure 1, upper panel shows the increasing difference between chronological age and height age (i.e., the age at which a given height corresponds to the 50th height percentile) as a result of growth failure in the children under study. Figure 2, lower panel illustrates the effect of referring to height age versus chronological age on LVMI percentile assignment.

The use of the height-specific LMS reference tables of Foster et al. yielded a widely scattered distribution of LVM SDS (mean ± SD: 0.27 ± 2.33) with 21% of measurements ranking below the 5th LVM percentile (Figure 3, upper panel). When referring to the Khoury tables, modified by substituting chronological age by height age, the fraction of measurements in the low normal range did not differ from expected (7% of measurements below the 10th percentile) (Figure 3, lower panel).

The overall LVH prevalence was 64.9% when using the traditional fixed LVM criterion, 51.7% according to the 95th percentile of the Khoury reference charts based on age and gender, 48.1% when using height age with the same charts, and 27.4% using the 95th percentile of LVM for height according to the Foster tables. As expected, the prevalence of LVH calculated with the different reference

![Figure 1](image-url) | Inverse correlation of left ventricular mass index (LVMI) with body height in 507 children on chronic peritoneal dialysis (CPD).
systems markedly differed with age (Figure 4). The fixed LVMI criterion yielded a much higher apparent LVH prevalence during the first 5 years of life than the age- or height-adjusted LVMI reference systems. When using the Khoury charts with chronological age, LVH prevalence was significantly higher in growth-retarded children (height SDS $<-2$) than in children of normal height (55.7% versus 47.3%, $P < 0.05$). This difference was attenuated when relating LVMI to height age (49.5% versus 46.5%, $P = 0.48$).

**Discussion**

In this study we utilized the largest series of echocardiographies collated in dialyzed children to date to examine the effect of using different reference systems on the apparent prevalence of LVH in this population.

Current consensus guidelines recommend indexing LVM to height to the power of 2.7 in pediatric subjects (13). These guidelines are based on studies performed in the early 1990s, when obesity was still less prevalent and different echocardiographic equipment and techniques were utilized.

In analogy to the findings of Foster et al. and Khoury et al. in healthy children (14,15), we observed a significant inverse relationship of this LVMI with body size in children shorter than 130 cm. Although we cannot rule out the possibility of more marked LVH in young as compared with older children on dialysis, it is most likely that the

---

**Figure 2.** Upper panel: Deviation of height age from chronological age in 507 children on CPD. Lower panel: Effect of reference to height age rather than chronological age on LVMI percentile assignment. At the age of 8 years, the mean height age in the CPD population is 6 years. As a consequence, an 8-year-old child with average growth retardation and LVMI at the 95th percentile for age will be ranked in the 90th LVMI percentile when referring to height age.
The height exponent of 2.7 does not adequately reflect the biologic relationship between heart size and body size in small children with CKD as in healthy children. The reason for the incomplete age normalization might be given by the fact that the inadequate normalization achieved by indexing to height to the power of 2.7 in very small individuals was apparently ignored in the original publication, which encompassed 241 adults and 444 infants, children, and adolescents (11). LVM is likely to scale best to lean body mass (17,18), of which height, even if used with allometric correction factors, is a rather imperfect surrogate. Whereas a precise assessment of lean body mass requires elaborate technologies such as densitometry or isotope dilution studies, allometric equations utilizing height and weight allow for estimation of lean body mass. One approximation is body surface area, which is closely correlated with basal metabolic rate and incorporates the product of height to the power of 0.73 and weight to the power of 0.43. Recently, an allometric pediatric estimation equation for lean body mass utilizing slightly modified allometric exponents to weight and height has been proposed (19). However, the approach to normalize LVM to anthropometric estimates of lean body mass is inherently limited by the predictive power of allometric equations based on height and weight. The body weight component in the equation may introduce bias related to variable inclusion of obese subjects in the reference and study cohorts. In diseased populations such as children with CKD, additional inaccuracies may occur because of simultaneous malnutrition and fluid retention, which may result in normal weight for height despite reduced lean body mass. It would be of interest to utilize more direct measures of lean body mass such as multifrequency bioimpedance and other emerging noninvasive technologies.

While awaiting further fundamental research in pediatric echocardiography, current studies in diseased populations have to utilize the existing body of reference information (Table 1). Here, we applied four reference systems.
to our study cohort and compared the results with respect to the calculated prevalence of LVM abnormalities in children on dialysis.

The most widely used definition of LVH is an LVMI exceeding 38.6 g/m$^2$, which corresponds to the 95th percentile of LVM distribution in a study of 192 healthy children aged 6 to 17 years living in Cincinnati, Ohio, in the early 1990s (20). Major advances in echocardiographic methodology and changes in anthropometric indices at the population level have occurred since then, creating a need for updated reference standards.

Recently, Foster et al. studied 440 healthy children and 239 children at risk of LVH (14). This single-center study was carefully standardized and a single cardiologist performed all measurements. All participants were normotensive at the time of the study and 1 year later. The authors utilized the LMS method to provide height-specific coefficients describing the distribution of LVM in the reference population and allowing quantitation of an individual’s value by standardized SDS. Being particularly advantageous for parameters with non-Gaussian distribution, this approach is the current method of choice in cardiovascular auxology, applied, for instance, to express BMI, ABPM, and carotid intima-media thickness (21–23).

Khoury et al. recently published reference percentile tables for LVM and LVMI (g/m$^2$) obtained in 2273 healthy children, the largest reference population collected to date (15). Details regarding the standardization of echocardiographic and anthropometric measurements were not given. The authors chose to categorize by gender and age (0 to 6 months, 6 to 18 months, and thereafter at 2-year intervals). The relatively broad age categories could introduce errors, mainly in the youngest, smallest children, among whom even a small difference in age may translate into a big difference in height and consequently in normal LVMI. Moreover, the reference to chronological age in the Khoury charts creates a problem of applicability in populations in which the normal relations among age, height, and sexual maturation are disturbed, as is the case in children with CKD. An approximative solution to this problem is the use of height age instead of chronological age, assuming that the body composition, cardiac mass, and cardiac output of a growth-retarded child should match that of a child with the same height who is at the 50th percentile for age. Although one could speculate whether the lean mass of a very short, but fully sexually mature, adolescent should be appropriate for pubertal stage rather than matching that of a late prepubertal child of the same height, this consideration is largely irrelevant for LVMI, which attains constant values in the second decade of life. Hence, we propose to use height age when referencing a growth-retarded population to the Khoury tables. In this analysis, we compared the effects of referencing to chronological and height age, respectively. Although the overall difference in LVH prevalence was small, referencing to height age eliminated the apparent effect of growth retardation on LVH prevalence that was observed when referencing to chronological age.

Applied to our cohort, the Khoury and the Foster reference tables efficiently corrected the overestimation of LVH by the fixed LVMI criterion in young children, resulting in prevalence estimates independent of or even slightly increasing with age. However, the two reference systems yielded markedly different LVH prevalence figures. Whereas the 95th LVMI percentile of Khoury et al. approaches the previously established constant LVH criterion of 38.6 g/m$^2$ in school children and adolescents, the Foster charts show a much higher cutoff level and lower prevalence of LVH. The LVM SDS distribution plot further showed a large fraction of patients with apparent abnormally small heart size with the Foster charts that was not evident from the LVMI distribution within the Khoury charts. This suggests that the mu coefficients (distribution median) may have been overestimated and the sigma coefficients (distribution width) may have been underestimated in the relatively small validation cohort in the Foster study.

![Figure 4](image-url)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Echocardiographic reference studies in healthy children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose of study</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population studied</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Echocardiographic standardization</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statistical and scaling method</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Results</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strengths of study</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Limitations of study</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LVM, left ventricular mass; LVH, left ventricular hypertrophy; LVMI, left ventricular mass index; BMI, body mass index; ASE, American Society of Echocardiography; LV, left ventricle; LBM, lean body mass; DEXA, dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry; LMS, lambda-mu-sigma.
The differences in LVM distribution between the two recent reference cohorts might in part be explained by differences in body composition: Mean BMI was around the 58th percentile in the Foster study, whereas it was around the 45th percentile in the study of Khoury et al. These differences might reflect systematic differences in lean body mass that were not sufficiently accounted for by referencing to age or height. Furthermore, it is important to recognize the potential effect of methodological differences between the two studies. In the echocardiographic studies for the Foster paper, the wall and septum borders were hand-digitized using custom software, and thicknesses and diameters were calculated from the digitized borders as continuous variables throughout the cardiac cycle. End-diastole was defined as the time of maximum left ventricular dimension. The end-diastolic dimensions and wall thicknesses were calculated as the average of three successive cardiac cycles (14,24). Because this methodology of image analysis is not widely used, it may be the main reason for the difference in LVM estimates between the Foster and the Khoury papers.

Hence, the Foster and the Khoury studies represent significant advances in pediatric echocardiography, and both have drawbacks. The strength of the Khoury study is its very large cohort size and its partial concordance with previous reference data.

In subjects taller than 130 cm, the 95th LVM percentile of Khoury approaches 38 g/m², the widely used—although not end point–validated—cutoff to define LVH in previous pediatric studies. The reference to age categorized at relatively broad intervals instead of a measure of body size is an important limitation of the Khoury tables that may be partially overcome by referencing to height age.

The weakness of the Foster reference group is its relatively small sample size and the fact that the measurement techniques used are not the same as those that are broadly applied in clinical practice.

On the other hand, the scaling of LVM to body size on a continuous scale is a clear advantage of the Foster study, as is the expression of LVM for height by standardized SDS. The latter allows using individual values from children of all ages for parametric statistical analysis in cross-sectional and longitudinal studies, a clear advantage over the traditional dichotomous LVH classification. With respect to the definition of LVH, the 97th percentile of the Foster reference data at the upper end of the height distribution corresponds with the LVM cutoff of 51 g/m², which has been linked with adverse outcomes in adults (25).

In this study we validated existing definitions of LVH in a global registry-based population of children on CPD. The lack of standardization of echocardiographic technique and anthropometric measurements is an obvious limitation inherent to the data. Potential bias might also emerge from the application of reference systems validated in healthy children in case the underlying the relationship between LVM and body size differs fundamentally in children with ESRD. This general possibility is difficult to exclude and applies to any echocardiographic study in diseased pediatric populations.

In conclusion, recent advances in pediatric echocardiography allow a fresh look at abnormalities of cardiac adaptation in health and disease. However, further efforts will be required to develop optimal normalization techniques to express LVM and other morphologic and functional measures across the pediatric age range.

**APPENDIX**

The following principal investigators are contributing to the IPPN registry:

- Argentina: E. Sojo, Hospital de Pediatria Garrahan, Buenos Aires; P.A. Coccia, Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires; A. Suarez, Hospital de Ninos Sor. Maria Ludovica La Plata, La Plata; P.G. Valles, Hospital Pediatrico Humberto Notti, Mendoza; R. Salim, Rennius S.A., Salta
- Belgium: K. van Hoeck, University Hospital Antwerp, Edegem
- Brazil: V. Koch, Instituto da Criança—Hospital das Clinicas FMUSP, Sao Paulo
- Canada: J. Feber, Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Ottawa; D.A. Geary, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto; C. White, BC Children's Hospital, Vancouver
- Chile: M. Valenzuela, Hospital Guillermo Grant Benavente, Concepcion; J. Villagra, Hospital Base, Osorno; F. Cano, Hospital Luis Calvo Mackenna, Santiago; M.A. Contreras, Roberto del Rio Hospital, Santiago; A. Vogel, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, Santiago; P. Zambrano, Hospital Dr. Gonzales Cortes, Santiago; P. Berrocal, Hospital Sotero del Rio, Santiago
- People’s Republic of China: M.C. Chiu, Department of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, Hong Kong; H. Xu, Children’s Hospital of Fudan University, Shanghai
- Czech Republic: K. Vondrak, University Hospital Motol, Prague
- Finland: K. Rönholm, Hospital for Children and Adolescents, Helsinki
- France: J. Harambat, Hopital des Enfants, Bordeaux; B. Ranchin, Hopital Femme Mére Enfant, Lyon; T. Ulinski, Armand Trousseau Hospital, Paris; M. Fischbach, Children’s Dialysis Center, Strasbourg
- Germany: R. Büscher, Children’s Hospital Essen; M. Kemper, University Medical Center, Hamburg; L. Pape, Medical School, Hannover; F. Schaefer and D. Borzych, Center for Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, Heidelberg; J. Mieselwitz, Kidney Center for Children and Adolescents, Jena; G. Klaus, University Hospital, Marburg; D. Haffner, University Children’s Hospital, Rostock
- Greece: F. Papachristou, Aristoteles University, Thessaloniki
- India: A. Bagga, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi; M. Kanitkar, Armed Forces Medical College, Pune
- Italy: E. Verrina, G. Gaslini Institute, Genova; A. Edefonti, Fondazione Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Milano; G. Leozappa, Department of Nephrology and Urology, Rome
- Israel: D. Landau, Soroka Medical Center, Beer-Sheva
- Korea: I.S. Ha, Seoul National University Children’s Hospital, Seoul; K.H. Paik, Samsung Medical Center, Seoul
- Macedonia: E. Sahpazova, Pediatric Clinic, Skopje
• Netherlands: J.W. Groothoff, Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam
• New Zealand: W. Wong, Starship Children’s Hospital, Auckland
• Nicaragua: Y. Silva, Hospital Infantil de Nicaragua, Managua
• Poland: A.M. Zuworska and D. Borzych, Medical University, Gdansk; D. Drozdz, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Krakow; M. Lipka, Children’s Memorial Health Institute, Warsaw; M. Sczepanska, Dialysis Division for Children, Zabrze
• Romania: O. Brumariu, St. Maria Children’s Hospital, Iasi
• Singapore: H.K. Yap, Shaw-NKF-NUH Children’s Kidney Center
• Spain: G. Aritceta, Hospital de Cruces, Baracaldo
• Turkey: A. Bakkaloglu, Hacettepe University, Ankara; S.A. Bakkaloglu, Cazi University, Ankara; I. Bilge, Department of Pediatric Nephrology, Çapa-Istanbul; L. Sever, Cerrahpasa School of Medicine, Istanbul; E. Serdaroglu, Dr. Behcet Uz Children’s Teaching and Research Hospital, Izmir; A. Bal, Tepecik Children’s Teaching and Research Hospital, Izmir; S. Mir, Ege University Faculty of Medicine, Izmir
• United Kingdom: L. Rees, Great Ormond Street Hospital, London; A.R. Watson, Children & Young People’s Kidney Unit, Nottingham
• Uruguay: J. Grünberg, SE.N.NI.AD, Montevideo
• United States: L. Greenbaum, Children’s Healthcare Pediatric Dialysis Unit, Atlanta, Georgia; A. Neu, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland; D. Askenazi, Children’s Hospital of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama; D. Gipson, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; H. Patel, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Columbus, Ohio; S. Pottoore, Children’s Medical Center, Dallas, Texas; V. Dharnidharka, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida; T. Bunchman, Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, Grand Rapids, Michigan; A. Chua, Texas Children’s Hospital, Houston, Texas; B.A. Warady, Children’s Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri; J. Zaritsky, University of California—Los Angeles Medical Center, Los Angeles, California; J. Flynn, Seattle Children’s Hospital, Seattle, Washington

Acknowledgments
We gratefully acknowledge the support by the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis, Baxter Health Care, Fresenius Medical Care, Ispen, Pfizer, and IBM. We also appreciate the continued dedicated support of IPPN by the medical staff in all collaborating centers. D.B. and S.A.B. contributed equally to the study.

Disclosures
Franz Schaefer is a consultant for Amgen, Genzyme, Otsuka, Takeda, and Mitsubishi Pharmaceuticals. Bradley Warady is a consultant for Amgen, Abbott, and Genzyme and received speakers’ honoraria from Genentech.

References


Received: December 24, 2010 Accepted: April 16, 2011

Published online ahead of print. Publication date available at www.cjasn.org.