



# Kidney News

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## Renal Denervation

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because the prevalence of anemia increases with deteriorating renal function and is related to heart complications and cerebrovascular events. Interestingly, the results of both experimental and human studies have suggested a role of renal sympathetic nerves in the regulation of erythropoiesis.

The investigators also observed a trend toward reduced urinary albumin excretion after patients underwent renal denervation, as well as a trend toward reduced plasma concentrations of circulating brain natriuretic peptide. Brain natriuretic peptide is considered an independent predictor of cardiovascular death not only in cardiorenal syndrome but also in early-stage kidney disease in the absence of heart failure.

Finally, patients in the study experienced an improvement in augmentation index. Higher augmentation index is associated with target-organ damage in patients receiving hemodialysis and with microalbuminuria in those with essential hypertension. Renal denervation may rapidly affect the peripheral vasculature through a significant reduction in arterial stiffness.

“These initial findings now open up an

entirely new approach to better control blood pressure in chronic kidney disease and potentially slow down progression of the disease and reduce cardiovascular risk in these patients,” Schlaich said. “Studies are now warranted to look into this in detail.”

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The article, entitled “Renal Denervation in Moderate to Severe CKD,” is available at <http://jasn.asnjournals.org/>.

## ASN Glomerular Disease Advisory Group Meets with FDA

By Daniel C. Cattran

Dialogue between members of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and ASN’s Glomerular Disease Advisory Group continued at the recent National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases–sponsored symposium *Glomerular Disease: Pathophysiology, Biomarkers, and Registries for Facilitating Translational Research*. The discussion focused on possible end points to support the approval of new treatments for glomerular disease.

Challenges associated with establishing proteinuria as a surrogate end point (a biomarker intended to substitute for a clinical efficacy end point) in drug trials for glomerular diseases were identified. Both groups agreed that future discussions should focus on the data supporting proteinuria

as a surrogate within the context of a specific glomerular disease.

Patient-reported outcome measures were recognized as another important approach for establishing a drug’s efficacy and an area that required further exploration and discussion. It was also agreed that a number of disease-specific and thematically-focused “white papers” should be published as a joint venture. These papers will address the next steps in defining optimal end points for the approval of drugs to treat glomerular diseases. ●

Daniel C. Cattran, MD, is senior scientist, division of clinical investigation and human physiology, Toronto General Research Institute, and member of the ASN Glomerular Diseases Advisory Group.



## Something to Say?

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