Rituximab Benefits Adults with Steroid-Dependent Nephrotic Syndrome

Rituximab is a safe and effective treatment for adult patients with steroid-dependent minimal change disease, reports a study in *Kidney International*. The study included 17 adults receiving the anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody rituximab for steroid-dependent (15 patients) or frequently relapsing (2 patients) minimal change disease, reports a study in *ASN Kidney News* | April 2013.

Patients were treated at two French nephrology departments between 2002 and 2011. Rituximab therapy was started after the patients failed to respond to immunosuppressive drugs. Mean follow-up was 29.5 months.

Eleven patients had no further relapses of a mean duration of 26.7 months after rituximab infusion. Of these, nine patients were able to stop steroids and other immunosuppressive medications during follow-up. The remaining six patients had at least one relapse after a mean of 11.9 months. However, all were able to stop or substantially reduce their use of immunosuppressive drugs during this time (mean follow-up 34.5 months). There were no adverse events associated with rituximab therapy.

Patients with steroid-dependent nephrotic syndrome may need long-term treatment with multiple drugs, placing them at risk for drug toxicity and renal failure. Studies in children with steroid-
Mortality Links to eGFR and Albuminuria Are Stronger in Women

Lower eGFR and higher albuminuria carry increased risks of death and renal failure in both sexes, but the magnitude of the association is greater in women, reports a study in the British Medical Journal.

The meta-analysis by the Chronic Kidney Disease Prognosis Consortium used data on more than 2 million people from 48 cohorts. The data included nearly 1.9 million participants from general population cohorts, plus approximately 150,000 participants from high-risk cohorts and 37,000 from CKD cohorts. In addition...