Patiromer—a nonabsorbed polymer that binds potassium in exchange for calcium—was developed to meet the need for effective outpatient treatments for hyperkalemia. This two-phase trial supports its effectiveness in reducing potassium levels and the rate of recurrent hyperkalemia in CKD patients taking RAAS inhibitors. Hyperkalemia appears to be an infrequent and reversible event in patients taking patiromer (Weir MR, et al. Patiromer in patients with kidney disease and hyperkalemia receiving RAAS inhibitors. N Engl J Med doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1410853).

Surgical Robots Linked to Increased Rates of Partial Nephrectomy

Hospitals acquiring surgical robots are more likely to perform guideline-recommended partial nephrectomy in patients with renal cancer, reports a study in Medical Care.

The researchers used payer data from seven states to identify nearly 21,600 nephrectomies performed in 2001, 2005, and 2008. Hospital-level rates of partial nephrectomy were analyzed in relation to the hospitals’ acquisition of a surgical robotic system. The association was analyzed in relation to the hospitals’ acquisition of a surgical robotic system.