RI Clinicians Share Timely Reviews in Nephrology

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GUEST EDITOR

Much has changed since the launching in the US of the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Program under Medicare on July 1, 1973, a unique entitlement program based solely on the presence of a clinical condition. Dialysis, initially a privilege for a select few, has exploded since then to become a multi-billion dollar industry today, with over 600,000 patients on dialysis in the US, and over 1.6 million worldwide.

The first patient on chronic hemodialysis was 39-year-old American Clyde Shields who had glomerulonephritis; he survived for 11 years. Today, the elderly population has the fastest growing ESRD rate, with often a large burden of comorbidities and very high mortality rates. Close to half of patients older than 75 years of age have some degree of chronic kidney disease (CKD), many of whom are at increased risk of cardiovascular disease and death. It is then very timely that this year’s theme for World Kidney Day, which occurred on March 13, 2014, was “CKD and aging.”

On the other end of the age spectrum, the obesity epidemic has led to an increase in the rate of hypertension in the pediatric population. The metabolic syndrome/obesity epidemic is also likely responsible for the dramatic increase in nephrolithiasis rate. Previously largely regarded as a benign condition, nephrolithiasis is associated with huge costs of care and increased risk of acute kidney injury and CKD.

Contributions

This issue of the Rhode Island Medical Journal features a series of review articles in various nephrology topics relevant to clinicians.

My contribution, “The Elderly Patient with Low eGFR: Beyond the Numbers,” presents many considerations in the care of older adults with low renal function, with the goal of promoting individualized care based on shared decision making.

In “Anemia and Bone Disease of Chronic Kidney Disease: Pathogenesis, Diagnosis, and Management,” DOUGLAS SHEMIN, MD, reviews the pathogenesis and diagnosis of anemia and bone disease in CKD, and summarizes recent consensus guidelines for treatment.

In “Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring in Children: A Safe and Effective Diagnostic and Screening Tool for the Diagnosis of Hypertension in Children,” ROBIN KREMSDORF, MD, and M. KHURRAM FAIZAN, MD, review the technique of ABPM and its value in the work-up of children with elevated blood pressure.

In “The Growing Prevalence of Kidney Stones and Opportunities for Prevention,” KATHERINE RICHMAN, MD, JOHN O’BELL, MD, and GYAN PAREEK, MD, offer an updated review on nephrolithiasis with an emphasis on prevention through a multidisciplinary approach.

Guest editor

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