Introduction

Hypertension and cardiovascular risk in chronic kidney disease

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Introduction

This special issue of the *Nephrology Dialysis and Transplantation* contains some of the proceedings of the Eighth International Conference on Hypertension and the Kidney that took place in Madrid in February 2012. This event has been organized biannually since 1998 by the Department of Nephrology of the Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón and sponsored by the Spanish Society of Nephrology, the Spanish Society of Hypertension, the International Society of Nephrology, the European Renal Association–European Dialysis and Transplant Association and the Fundación de Ayuda a la Investigación Vascular y Renal. This conference is an academic landmark for evaluating established paradigms and presenting new data in cardiovascular damage and kidney disease.

This year’s conference was dedicated to examining the pathophysiology of cardiovascular damage in renal disease and evaluating the most recent therapeutic approaches aimed at reducing cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in these patients. After correcting for age, gender, race and diabetes, myocardial infarction, sudden cardiac death and congestive heart failure are the cause of death in more than half of all patients with chronic kidney disease. This increased incidence of cardiovascular risk starts at early stages of renal disease. The elevation of serum creatinine and decrease of its estimated GFR are powerful predictors of both death and future cardiovascular events and it has also been shown that early renal damage evidenced by microalbuminuria even with a normal GFR increases the relative risk of cardiovascular events on extensive studies in the general population. Moreover, this conference is primarily dedicated to nontraditional risk factors, which contribute to cardiovascular disease in early stages of renal disease such as inflammation, oxidative stress, immune reactivity and adiposity among others which contribute significantly to promoting and accelerating atherosclerosis. Separate sections focused on the treatment of anemia, dislipemia, calcium and phosphate disturbances and vitamin D deficiency were included. Other relevant themes of particular interest for discussion were the new biomarkers in diabetes, the therapeutic approach to resistant and severe hypertension, management of renal artery stenosis and the role of hyperuricemia on renal disease progression and cardiovascular risk.

Selected materials presented in this conference merit publication in a leading nephrology journal such as *Nephrology Dialysis and Transplantation*. We are grateful to all distinguished contributors to the Conference for both their lectures at the Conference and their published papers. We want to express our gratitude to the editorial staff in helping us to make this supplement possible.

It has been our privilege and honor to serve as Guest Editors of this special issue, and we hope that it will be useful for clinicians and researchers in this field of cardiovascular disease in renal patients.

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