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Linear and non-linear eGFR slopes in ADPKD patients reaching ESRD

Letter to the Editor, AJKD Re: Brosnahan et al, AJKD 2017

Dear Sir

We read with interest this paper reporting patients from the HALT-PKD trials with non-linear eGFR slopes and non-progressors as defined by serial eGFR¹. Although these results are interesting, it is uncertain how they relate to the entire course of disease or long-term clinical outcomes in unselected non-trial populations.

We performed a retrospective analysis of individual eGFR slopes in an unselected ADPKD patient group reaching end-stage renal disease (ESRD) at our centre over four decades (1978-2016). To capture changes over a longer period, we restricted analysis to patients with a minimum of 10 years available annual eGFR-EPI measurements prior to ESRD, dividing them into two groups based on their initial eGFR: Group A (>100ml/min/1.73m²; n=12) and Group B (<100ml/min/1.73m²; n=25). Data from eGFR slopes were fitted to linear or non-linear models of eGFR decline.

The majority of patients in both groups had a linear decline in eGFR with a higher percentage in Group B. However a significant number in both groups (25-36%) showed a more complex pattern. Examples of each are shown in Figure 1. In conclusion, a linear decline in eGFR was observed in the majority of patients with ADPKD reaching ESRD. However deviations from linearity (unrelated to acute events) occurred in a significant proportion of patients and may be informative for clinical management, future trial design and mechanistic studies.

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1. Brosnahan GM, Abebe KZ, Moore CG, et al. Patterns of Kidney Function Decline in Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease: A Post Hoc Analysis From the HALT-PKD Trials. *Am J Kidney Dis.* 2018.