Breakpoints of Reciprocal Creatinine Plots

B.

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Dear Sir,

References

In their recent article in Nephron, Oksa et al., [1] analyzed reciprocal serum creatinine plots in a large number of patients with renal failure. They reported a high frequency of deviations from straight regression lines among their study population. There is now a straightforward BASIC program written for microcomputers which will test for statistically significant deviations in the slope of reciprocal creatinine plots [2]. The program detects a breakpoint at the intersection of two lines which provide a better fit to the data points than does a single line. This improvement holds true even though the single line, calculated by linear regression analysis, shows a highly significant correlation between the two variables. This program should prove valuable to nephrologists who desire to follow the clinical course of their patients with reciprocal creatinine plots. It permits quantitation of the efficacy of therapeutic interventions, as opposed to spontaneous fluctuations, on the course of progressive renal failure.

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