Proteinuria and Gut Tumours

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Dear Sir,

Re: Proteinuria and gut tumours

We enjoyed the paper by Beaufils [et al.](#) [1] who showed that immunoglobulins were most likely to be found in glomeruli in patients who had died of gut tumours compared with material from patients with lung, urological, gynaecological or nasopharyngeal carcinomata.

For the past 4 years we have collected single samples of urine from 545 patients with tumours and 529 control subjects. Our observations complement those of Beaufils [et al.](#) [1]. Proteinuria was present in 22.5% of control urines and in 58.2% of the urines obtained from cancer patients ($\chi^2 = 140.1$, [p < 0.001](#)). Of patients with digestive carcinomata 123 from a total of 171 had proteinuria (71.9%). Mean protein concentration of this sub-group was 0.39 ± 0.90 g/l. The coefficient of variation of the assay for urine protein was 14.9%.

It appears therefore that not only are sub-clinical immune deposits fairly frequently demonstrated in cancer patients, but that low concentrations of proteinuria are common. We have yet to perform immunoperoxi-dase studies upon the renal tissues of our patients.

Reference