Age at Renal Replacement Therapy in Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease

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Dear Sir,

In 1989 Gretz et al. [1] pointed out that end-stage renal failure appears earlier in men than in women in autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD; median age 52 vs. 58 years). Data from the Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry [2] and recently those from Gabow and Johnson [3] in ADPKD patients supported Table 1. Age and sex distribution at the start of renal replacement therapy in 82 ADPKD patients

these findings. However, we [4] and others [5-9] failed to confirm this gender difference. Therefore, we reexamined a group of 82 ADPKD patients starting renal replacement therapy at our hospital between 1977 and 1995. The mean ($\pm$ SD) age in men and women was similar: 51.9 ± 11 (range 26-76 years) and 52.6 ± 10 years (range 26-76), respectively. The group was also analyzed according to decades (table 1) and further, to perform χ^2 analysis, these data were regrouped. No significant difference in age between the genders at renal replacement therapy was found. Nevertheless, there were significantly more men (63%) than women (36%; $p = 0.01$) and this may reflect pheno-typic variability.

As expected in an inherited autosomal dominant disorder, approximately equal numbers of affected men and women, in the same age range, were found in presymptomatic ADPKD [10]. In addition, the prevalence of hypertension was greater in men even in the presymptomatic status. Therefore, unknown hypertension linked to male gender may contribute to the more aggressive course of the disease observed in men.

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