Therapeutic Apheresis for Renal Disease Strategies and Controversies **ISBP 2023** 

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## Plasmapheresis for antibody associated **GN:** Rationale:

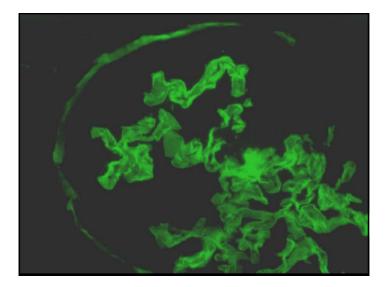
- IgG half life is 21 days: Even with complete cessation of production, there is a prolonged period with substantial amount of antibody still present
- Plasmapheresis is the most reliable and rapid means of lowering antibody levels

## Apheresis for Renal Disease

- Primary Renal Disease
- Goodpasture's disease
- ◆ IgA nephritis/HSP
- Pauci-immune RPGN
- ♦ Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis
- ◆ Secondary Renal Disease
- ♦ SLE
- ◆ APA syndrome
- ◆ Cryoglobulinemia
- Multiple Myeloma
- ◆ TTP/HUS
- Transplantation

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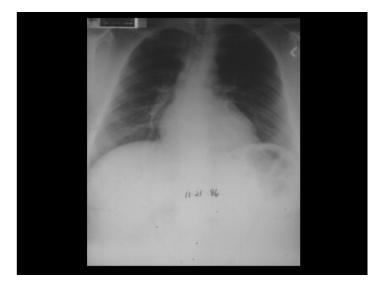


# Anti-GBM Antibody and Goodpasture's Syndrome

- Pathogenic antibody capable of causing alveolar hemorrhage and rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis
- Only one randomized, controlled trial: *Johnson et al. Medicine 64:219, 1985*
- Plasmapheresis results in rapid lowering of anti-GBM antibody, lower post RX creatinine and reduced incidence of ESRD

#### Anti-GBM ANTIBODY DISEASE & **GOODPASTURE'S SYNDROME** Prednisone Cyclophosphamide Dialysis Plasmapheresis + + 700 # 11 1 500 Creatini Anti-C.B.M. antibody (%) binding by radioimmuno 12 Creatinine 10 Ine 400 300 200 100 Anti-G.B.M. anti 0 14 21 Sept. 28 22 31 15 5 Dec 7 Oct. Aug Lockwood et al. Br Med J 1975;2:252

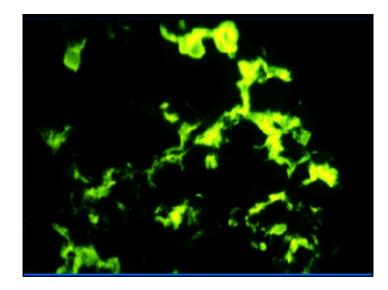




Plasmapheresis in anti- glomerular basement membrane disease: How much is enough?		Clinical Nephrology, Vol. 85 – No. 3/2016 – Letter to the editor		
Nitin Relia, Yusra Cheer Jennifer Tuazon, and Ja Table 1. Patient characteristics.				
Patient characteristics	Patient 1	Patient 2	Patient 3	
Age/sex	25 years/male	19 years/female	43 years/female	
Creatinine at presentation (mg/dL)	3.0	4.2	3.4	
Peak creatinine (mg/dL)	9.5	7.6	13.0	
% of crescents on renal biopsy	60%	75%	100%	
Dialysis (Y/N)	N	Y	Y	
	40	25	39	
Number of plasmapheresis sessions	10			
Number of plasmapheresis sessions Immunosuppression	Steroids, 3 monthly doses of cytoxan, 2 doses of rituximab	Steroids, 4 monthly doses of cytoxan	Steroids, 6 monthly doses cytoxan	
	Steroids, 3 monthly doses of			

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# IgA Nephropathy and Henoch Schonlein Purpura

In general, IgA nephropathy is treated with supportive therapy including ACE and ARBs to lower blood pressure and minimize proteinuria. Immunotherapy with glucocorticoids and mycophenolate mofetile are recommended for severe cases.

TPE has been evaluated in patients with severe disease....

## Plasmapheresis as the sole therapy for RPGN in Henoch Schonlein Purpura Hattori et al. Am J Kidney Dis 33:427, 1999

- 9 children with RPGN: proteinuria: 4.9 gm/m2/d, GFR: 46.5 mL/min, crescents in > 56 % of glomeruli
- TPE as sole therapy, thrice weekly for 2 weeks then weekly for 6 weeks
- Improvement in renal function, purpuric rash and abdominal pain
- 87% longterm renal survival (9.6 y) vs. less than
   33% in previous studies

## Plasma Exchange as an Adjunctive Therapy for Crescentic IgA Nephropathy.

Xie X<sup>1</sup>, Lv J, Shi S, Zhu L, Liu L, Chen M, Wang Y, Cui Z, Wang X, Liu L, Yu X, Zhou F, Zhao MH, Zhang H.

Renal Division, Peking University First Hospital, Peking University Institute of Nephrology, Key Laboratory of Renal Disease, Ministry of Health of China, and Key Laboratory of Chronic Kidney Disease Prevention and Treatment, Peking University, Ministry of Education, Beijing, China

<u>Am J Nephrol.</u> 2016;44(2):141-9. doi: 10.1159/000448767. Epub 2016 Aug 17.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Crescentic IgA nephropathy (CreIgAN) has a poor prognosis despite aggressive immunosuppressive therapy. The efficacy of plasma exchange (PE) is not well defined.

#### TPE FOR CRESENTERIC IGA NEPHRITIS

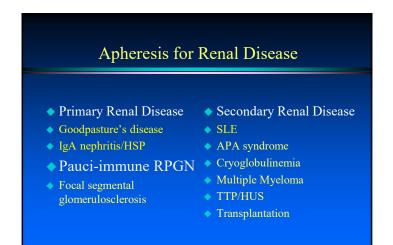
METHODS: Twelve patients with severe CrelgAN who received PE as addition to routine immunosuppressive therapy, followed for more than 6 months, were involved. Twelve matched historical controls who received immunosuppressive therapy alone were selected. Renal survival, plasma IgA-IgG complex and active complement products were assessed.

#### **RESULTS:**

Nine men and 3 women received a median of **7 PE courses** (range 5-10). Their baseline urine protein excretion rate was 5.8 (4.5-8.7) g/day, and their serum creatinine level was 705.3  $\pm$  296.4 µmol/l. During a mean follow-up of 15.6 months (6-51 months), 6 of the 12 PE group patients were free of dialysis, while all the control patients were dialysis dependent (6 of 12 vs. 0 of 12, p = 0.014). In the PE group, dialysis had to be restarted for 1 patient owing to the development of severe pneumonia and pulmonary failure. **PE was associated with a higher kidney survival rate** (log rank test, p = 0.026) during follow-up. It also significantly decreased plasma IgA-IgG complex levels (pre-PE: 85.3  $\pm$  25.9% vs. post-PE: 38.4  $\pm$  12.4%, p < 0.001) and plasma and urinary active complement product levels, including C3a, C5a and soluble C5b-9. The latter levels remained low until the last follow-up.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

This study indicated that PE could increase renal recovery rates in severe CreIgAN.

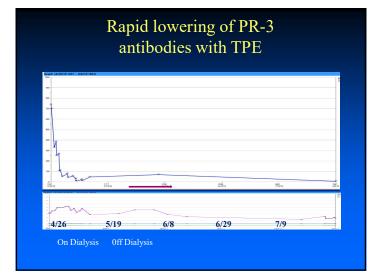


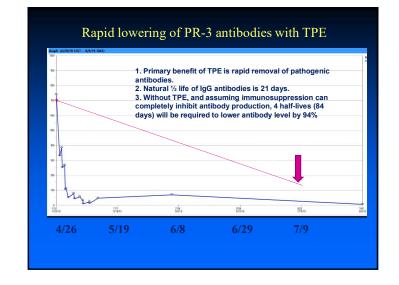


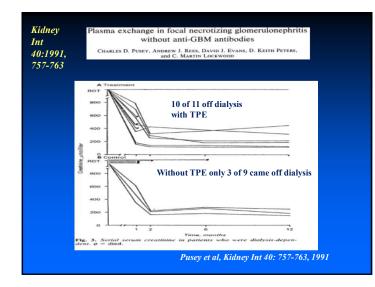
## Are ANCA pathogenic? Lionaki & Falk, JASN 18:1987-8, 2007

- ANCA are capable of activating leukocytes in vitro: <u>Falk & Jennette</u>, JASN 13:1977-9, 2002, <u>Jennette et al.</u> JASN 17:1235-42, 2006
- In animals, anti-myeloperoxidase ABs can induce necrotizing GN and vasculitis. *Xiao et al. Am J Path 167:39-45, 2995, <u>Little et al.</u> Blood 106: 2050-58, 2005.*
- Case of transplacental transfer of ANCA resulting in vasculitis in newborn infant. <u>Schlieben et al.</u> Am J Kidney Dis 45:758-61, 2005

Controlled trials	of TPE for seve	ere RP	GN
	Index of Severity	TPE	no TPE
Mauri et al. 1985 (ref 1)	Creatinine > 9		
Initial creatinine (# pts)		13.5 (6)	13.1 (5)
Creatinine after 3 years		8.7*	13.4
Glockner et al. 1988 (ref 2)	Dialysis dependent		
Initial creatinine (# pts)		7.4 (8)	9.2 (4)
Creatinine after 6 months		1.7*	
Pusey et al. 1991 (ref 3)	Dialysis dependent		
Initial # pts on dialysis		11	8
Patients off dialysis at 12 months		<b>10</b> @	3
Cole et al. 1992 (ref 4)	Dialysis dependent		
Initial # pts on dialysis		4	7
Patients off dialysis at 12 months		3	2
Kaplan AA. The	r Apheresis 1997;1:255-259		



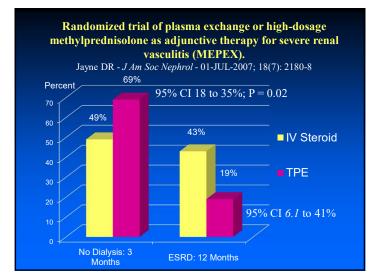


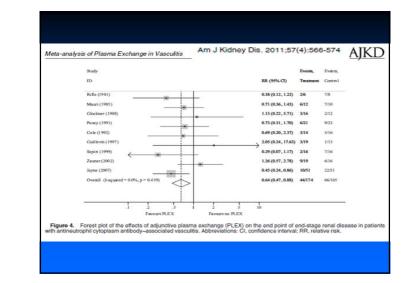


Randomized trial of plasma exchange or highdosage methylprednisolone as adjunctive therapy for severe renal vasculitis (MEPEX) Jayne DR - J Am Soc Nephrol - 01-JUL-2007; 18(7): 2180-8

137 patients with ANCA-associated systemic vasculitis with serum creatinine >500 micromol/L (5.8 mg/dl)
Randomized to TPE vs. intravenous methylprednisolone.
Both groups received oral cyclophosphamide and oral prednisolone.
70 received 7 plasma exchanges, 67 received 3000 mg of IV methylprednisolone

Results: In patients presenting with renal failure, TPE increased the rate of renal recovery in ANCA-associated systemic vasculitis



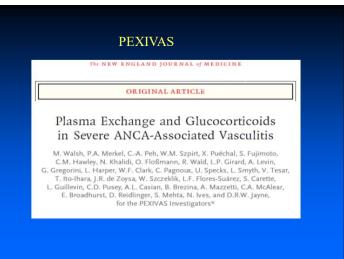


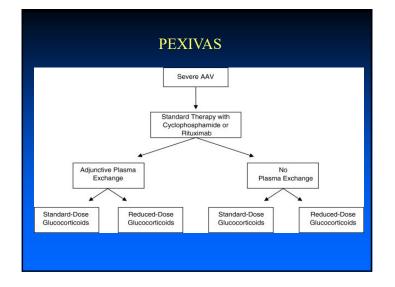
#### Journal of Clinical Apheresis: 2016 ASFA Guidelines

#### **Current management/treatment**

The current management is combination therapy consisting of high-dose corticosteroids and cytotoxic immunosuppressive drugs (cyclophosphamide and rituximab). Two randomized trials indicate that rituximab is an effective alternative to cyclophosphamide in new or relapsing patients.

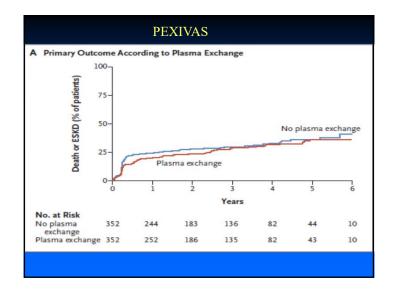
Overall, existing controlled trials suggest no benefit of TPE for many cases with kidney involvement. Important exceptions are: **Patients with (1) severe active kidney disease**, i.e., requiring dialysis therapy or with serum creatinine concentration above 6 mg/dL; (2) severe pulmonary hemorrhage; and (3) anti-GBM disease who are also ANCA-positive.

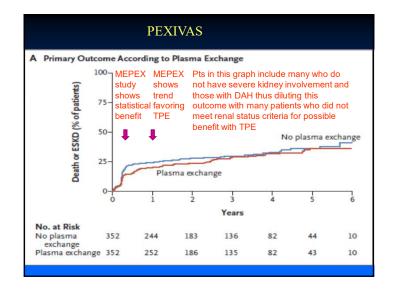




PEXIV	PEXIVAS			
Table 1. Characteristics of the Patients at Baselin	1e.*			
Characteristic	Plasma Exchange (N = 352)	No Plasma Exchange (N = 352)		
Kidney function				
Median serum creatinine level (IQR) —µmol/liter	327 (206–491)	336 (209-495)		
Serum creatinine level ≥500 µmol/liter or undergoing dialysis — no. (%)	101 (28.7)	104 (29.5)		
Undergoing dialysis — no. (%)	66 (18.8)	74 (21)		

In patients without DAH, this is the only group found to improve with TPE in previous studies evaluating ANCA disease.





Editorial 382;7 nejm February 13, 2020 ANCA-Associated Vasculitis — Refining Therapy with Plasma Exchange and Glucocorticoids Vimal K. Derebail, M.D., M.P.H., and Ronald J. Falk, M.D.

"The trial has limitations that are potentially of clinical importance. A kidney biopsy was not required for entry into the trial. Patients with ANCA-associat Without

baseline biopsy data, the proportion of patients who had kidney dysfunction caused by active inflammation, which may respond to immunomodulatory therapy, as compared with chronic sclerosis, which would not respond to this therapy, is unknown. A subgroup of patients with aggressive kidney disease with minimal scarring may benefit from plasma exchange."

## MEPEX VS. PEXIVAS for patients with creatinines of $\geq$ 5.7 mg/dL or on dialysis

- MEPEX
- 137 Pts randomized
- Statistical benefit in 3 months Despite clear separation on for TPE showing more patients off dialysis
- At 1 year, increased likelihood of being off dialysis
- All patients with renal biopsies
- PEXIVAS
  - 206 Pts randomized
  - provided figure, there is no statistical assessment at 3 months
  - At 1 year, no statistical benefit but provided figure is diluted with the majority of patients having creatinines <5.7mg or
  - No biopsy data provided.

Why should PEXIVAS results negate MEPEX?

#### **PEXIVAS:** Correspondence NEJM 282:22, MAY 28, 2020

- Authors asked how many patients did not receive 7 TPE treatments?
- Authors response: Of 317 patients in TPE group:
- 20 (6%) received between one and 6 exchanges
- 15 (4%) received **no** exchanges
- Thus: 35/317 = 11% of patients in TPE group did not get full dose of TPE
- Of potentially greater concern......
- There was only 101 patients in the renal failure group with high creatinine ( $\geq$ 5.7), or on dialysis. How many of these patients had reduced number of TPE treatments
- It is possible that up to 35 pts in TPE group who had creatinine greater than 5.7, or were on dialysis, did not receive full dose of TPE ... the group previously identified as most likely to respond .... 35/101 is a

# Relative costs of TPE for AKI with ANCA

- ESRD with HD = \$90,000/y (USRDS 2018)
- Assume that ANCA patients will survive on dialysis for one year.
- 7 TPE treatments at \$2000/TPE = \$14,000
- \$14.000/90.000 = 0.16
- CCL: If only 16% of all TPE treated patients avoid dialysis for one vear, the cost of providing TPE to all patients will be less than no TPE.

#### Conclusion

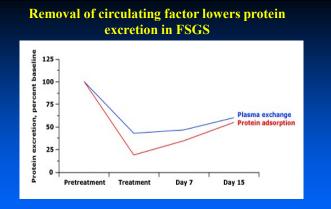
- Previous studies show benefit for TPE in pts with advanced renal disease (creatinine  $\geq 5.7$  mg/dL or requiring dialysis)
- PEXIVAS found no benefit for TPE in patients with advanced renal disease
- Lack of renal biopsy data is a substantial deficiency in the ultimate assessment of negative TPE data
- 35 patients in PE group did not get full dose of TPE. The
  effect of these undertreated patients may be very significant
  if a substantial number of these undertreated patients were
  in the group of 101 patients with creatinines ≤ 5.7 or those
  on dialysis.
- Cost of providing TPE with possible benefit is far less than need for chronic dialysis if no TPE is provided.
- PEXIVAS data is not sufficient to negate previous recommendations that TPE may benefit ANCA patients with advanced renal disease

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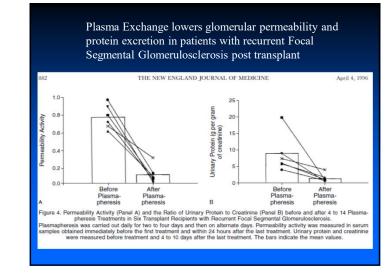
# Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis (FSGS)

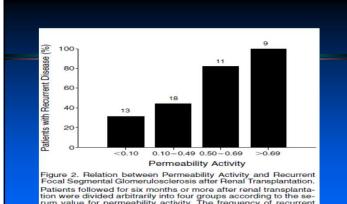
- 15-55% of patients with ESRD due to FSGS will have recurrence of proteinuria after renal transplantation.
- 30-50,000 dalton protein can increase glomerular permeability.
- Protein adsorption and plasmapheresis can lower proteinuria and maintain normal histology. *Dantal et al. NEJM 330: 1994, Artero et al. Am J Kidney Dis 23:1994*



Mean reduction in protein excretion following treatment with a protein adsorption column in eight patients with recurrent FSGS after renal transplantation. *Dantal, J, et al, N Engl J Med* 1994; 330:7.







Pocal Segmental Glomeruloscienosis after Henal Transplantation. Patients followed for six months or more after renal transplantation were divided arbitrarily into four groups according to the serum value for permeability activity. The frequency of recurrent focal segmental glomerulosclerosis increased with increasing values (P<0.001). The number of patients in each group is shown above the bars. Table 2. Frequency of Recurrent Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis in 30 Patients after Transplantation, According to the Value for Permeability Activity in Serum Samples Obtained before Transplantation.

PERMEABILITY ACTIVITY*	NO RECURRENCE	RECURRENCE	
	no. of patients (%)		
< 0.50	19	4 (17)	
≥0.50	1	6 (86)	
Total	20	10 (33)	

\*P<0.001 for the comparison between the patients with values under 0.50 and those with values greater than or equal to 0.50.

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CONCLUSIONS: FGS recurs in approximately 30% of allografts and causes graft loss in half of these. Patients who have lost a first allograft to recurrent FGS are at high risk for developing recurrent disease in a second allograft. Prolonged allograft survival is possible in patients with recurrent FGS and may best be obtained with a combination of treatment modalities including cyclosporine (perhaps in higher dosages than are routinely used in clinical renal transplantation), ACE inhibitors, and early use of plasmapheresis. The efficacy of these modalities supports the notion that recurrent FGS is caused by a circulating humoral mediator.

### Response to Plasmaphersis for FSGS

FABLE 4. Treatment regimens, responses, and current graft status for KTx recipients with unequivocal FSGS that receiv blasmapheresis therapy PP start Total PP (days from duration Ritux start Initial Current Current (days from FSGS response KTx) recur (d) to PP<sup>b</sup> F/U KTx proteinur status<sup>d</sup> Age at ase KTx Sex Donor PP start Ritux" KTx) (d) (d) status 13 E LRD Post-KTx 2 78 No N/A Yes (1) NR 4 HD N/A 42 F LRD Post-KTx 20 51 No N/A Yes (14) NR 516 HD N/A M LRD Post-KTx 37 HD No 30 36 N/A Yes (1) PR 1 N/A 65 M LRD Post-KTx 315 179 No N/A Yes (2) PR 443 1.1 alb/Cr 177 38 F LRD Post-KTx 52 1248 No N/A Yes (14) CR 1328 1.1 alb/Cr 181 50 M LRD Post-KTx 119 251 No N/A Yes (70) CR 365 1.3 Tot. Pr. 3. 19 F LRD Post-KTx Yes NR alb/Cr 2 2 138 12 Yes (1) 359 1.5 F LRD Pre-KTx -5 No CR 494 PD\* 18 293 N/A Yes (5) N/A 67 M LRD Pre-KTx -5 124 No N/A Yes (1) CR 134 PD\* N/A 42 M LURD Pre-KTx -5 709 No N/A PR 850 HD/died N/A Yes (1) 23 F LRD Pre-KTx -5 No N/A No N/A 1717 2.5 Tot. Pr. 0. 4 6 M LRD Pre-KTx Yes (1) -8 28 Yes 7 NR 392 0.8 alb/Cr 20 M LRD Pre-KTx Yes 928 13 933 CR alb/Cr 11 -5 Yes (1) 916 1.0 M LRD Pre-KTx 93 Yes 63 Yes (1) CR 208 0.6 alb/Cr 7 <sup>a</sup> Rituximab dose=375 mg/m<sup>2</sup> given once every 2 wk for 2 or 4 doses.
<sup>b</sup> NR defined as proteinuira reduction ≤50% of post-KTx peak after initial PP course; PR defined as proteinuira reduction >50% of post-KTx but n mail.ed; CR defined as normal.ison of proteinuira after initial PP course. Dialysis status or most recent serum creatinine concentrat

Dialysis status or most recent serum creatinine concentration (mg/dL). Most recent urine protein measurement. Normal values: alb/Cr <17 mg/g; Tot, Pr. <0.15 g/24 hr.

\* These subjects related date discontinuation of PP, verse subsequently surrepensive, and progressed to graft loss. KTs, kickney transplant: PP, plasmapheresis, Ritus, rhitsimah, LKD, living ended and and an and an analysis and applicable. NR, no resport, partial response; CR, complete response; HD, hemodialysis; PD, peritoneal dialysis; alb/Cr, albumin/creatinine ratio in urine; Tot, Pr, total 24 h protein in uri CS, food : segmental glomerulos/erevis.

Kidney Transplantation for Primary Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis: Outcomes and Response to Therapy for

### Indications: ASFA Guidelines

#### LDL Apheresis

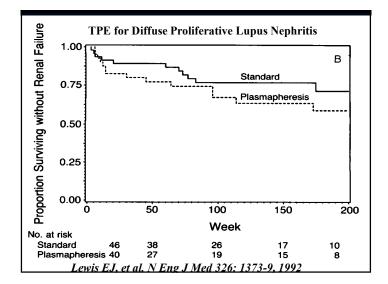
- Homozygous FH: Cat I, Grade 1A
- Heterozygous FH: Cat II, Grade 1A
- Homozygotes with small blood volume: TPE, Cat II, Grade 1C
- · Lipoprotein (a): Category II, Grade 1B
- FSGS, steroid resistant: Cat III, Grade 2C
- Peripheral vascular diseases: Cat II, Grade 1B
- · Phytanic acid storage disease (Refsum's disease): Cat II, Grade 2C
- · Sudden sensorineural hearing loss: Cat III, Grade 2A

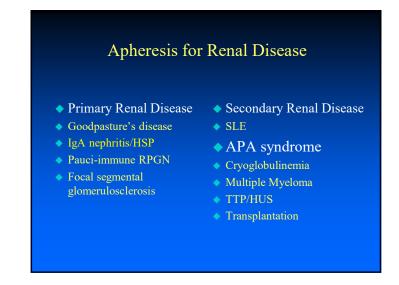
Journal of Clinical Apheresis 31:149-338 (2016)

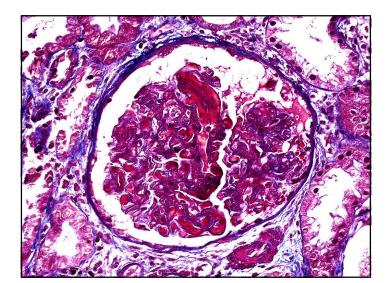
UC San Diego Health

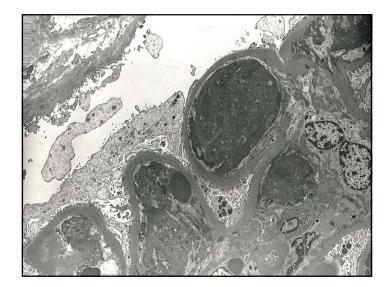
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# Are anti-phospholipid antibodies pathogenic?

"Antiphosphospholipid antibodies (aPL) have been demonstrated to have procoagulant actions upon protein C, annexin V, platelets, serum proteases, toll-like receptors, tissue factor, and via impaired fibrinolysis.

Aside from increasing the risk of vascular thrombosis, aPL increase vascular tone, thereby increasing the susceptibility to atherosclerosis, fetal loss and neurological damage." *BL Bernas, PH Schur, UpToDate, 2010* 

## Catastrophic Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome (CAPS)

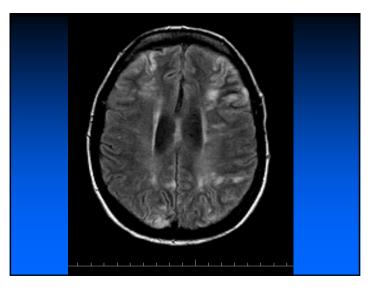
CAPS is a rare life-threatening form of antiphospholipid antibody syndrome (APS)

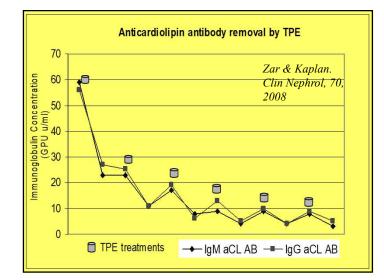
Associated mortality rate is >50%.

Treatment consists of IV heparin, IV steroids, IVIG and/or TPE.

## Catastrophic Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome: Case Report

- 33 year old caucasian female with history of primary APS with multiple miscarriages and deep venous thrombosis
- Presented with headaches and visual field defects.
- Non-compliance with coumadin. Her INR was 1.3.
- At presentation, patient had acute renal failure and non-ST elevation myocardial infarction. Serum creatinine (S.Cr) was 1.9 mg/dl, which peaked at 2.8 mg/dl by the third day.
- She was transferred to ICU and started on IV heparin.
- Within 24 hours of admission, her mental status deteriorated and she developed seizures and left sided hemiplegia. She subsequently developed malignant hypertension (BP 225/130 mmHg), flash pulmonary edema and required intubation for severe respiratory distress.





# TPE for CAPS

CAPS has never been investigated in a prospective, randomized trial

But, a review of the first 250 patients entered into the CAPS Registry demonstrated that the combination of TPE, anticoagulants and steroids was associated with an overall 78% survival. The authors concluded that this treatment combination should be the first line of therapy for patients with CAPS

Bucciarelli S. et al. Arthritis Rheum 2006;54:2568

# Anti-Phospholipid Antibody Syndrome

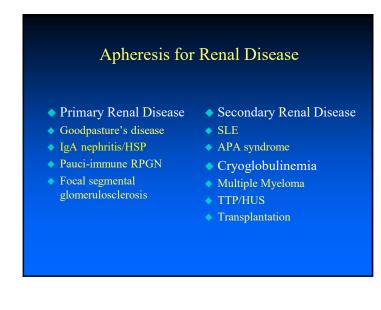
- Lupus anticoagulant and anticardiolipin antibody associated with arterial and venous thrombosis, recurrent fetal loss and renal disease.
- Plasmapheresis has resulted in successful pregnancy and reversal of renal disease.
   Frampton et al. Lancet ii: 1023, 1987, Fulcher et al. Lancet ii: 171, 1989, Kincaid-Smith et al. Quart J Med 258:795, 1988

# Are anti-phospholipid antibodies pathogenic?

### Anti-ß2-glycoprotein-I antibodies

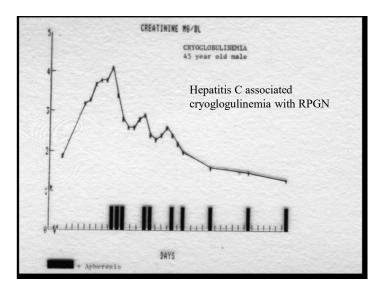
- β2-GP-I (apolipoprotein H) binds to negatively charged phospholipids and inhibits both contact activation of the clotting cascade and the conversion of prothrombin to thrombin.
- The properties of this protein as a clotting inhibitor may explain why neutralizing antibodies can promote thrombosis.

Schousboue I: Blood 1985, 66:1086 Nimpf J et al: Biochim Biophys Acta, 1986, 884:142



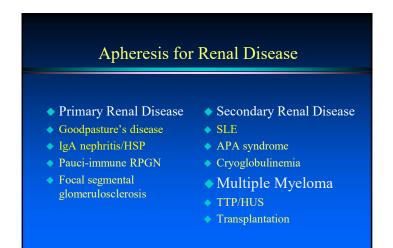
# Cryoglobulinemia

- Despite lack of randomized, controlled trials, there is a general consensus that plasmapheresis is useful for rapid removal of cryoglobulins.
- Concomittant hepatitis C infection may render chemotherapy problematic.
- Some patients may respond to plasmapheresis alone. *Ferri et al. Nephron 43, 246, 1986*



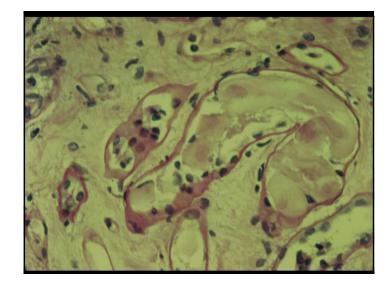
Cryoglobulin Removal with
Therapeutic Plasma Exchange (TPE)

DATE	IGM mg/dL	Crycrit %
Day 1 pre TPE post TPE	294 97	8%
Day 2 pre TPE post TPE	119 61	trace

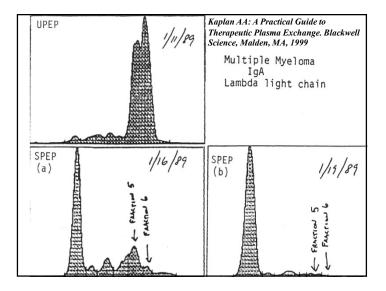


# "Cast Nephropathy" in Multiple Myeloma

- Light chains (Bence Jones protein) can be tubulo-toxic and result in obstruction of nephron lumen and acute renal failure
- Plasmapheresis, as an adjunct to chemotherapy, results in a more rapid lowering of serum light chains and a lower post RX creatinine. *Zucchelli et al. Kidney Int 33:1175, 1988*



	Group I	Group II	Р
Number in group	15	14	
Number of patients requiring dialysis	13	11	NS
Number of patients interrupting dialysis	П	2	<0.01
Number of patients who died within the first 2 months	I	5	NS
Serum creatinine at the end of the 2nd month mean ± sp mg/dl	2.6 ± 2.1	7.7 ± 1.9	<0.00
Zuchelli et al. K.I	. 1988		

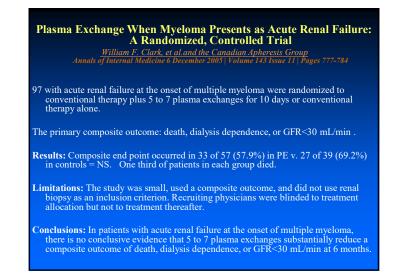


#### Baseline characteristics were similar between groups.

43 participants had a monoclonal kappa light chain,36 participants had a monoclonal lambda light chain,the remainder had a monoclonal Bence–Jones protein in excess.

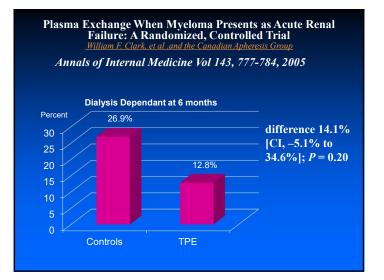
The monoclonal protein occurred in both the plasma and urine in 59 participants, in the plasma in 76 participants, in the urine in 79 participants, and in the casts of the renal biopsy in 1 participant.

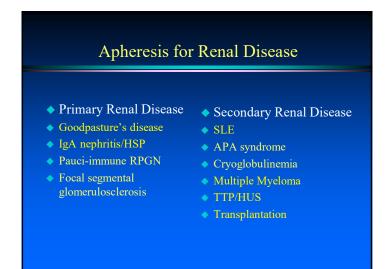
Hence: of 97 patients, only 80 had definitive evidence of free light chains in plasma. Given that the only rationale for plasma exchange is to remove free light chains from the plasma, at least 17 patients may not have a condition which could have possibly benefited from plasma exchange.

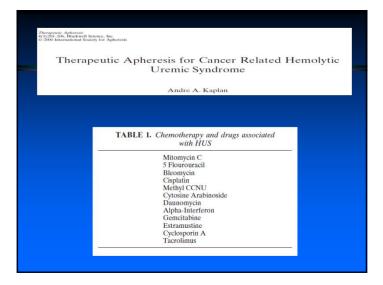


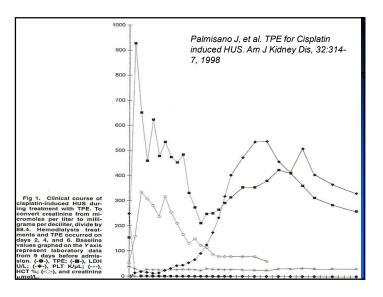
# Relative costs of TPE for AKI in MM and ESRD

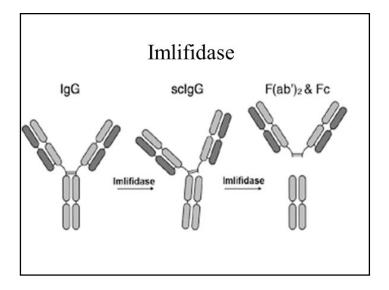
- ESRD with HD = \$90,000/year
- Average lifepan of MM pt on HD = 2 years
- 2 years of HD = \$180,000
- 6 TPE treatments for light chain removal = \$12,000 \_\_\_\_\_
- \$12,000/\$180,000 = 0.07
- CCl: if only 7% of treated patients avoid HD, net costs of TPE are less expensive option

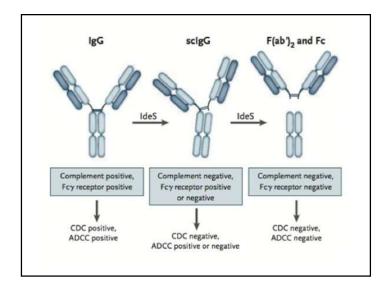


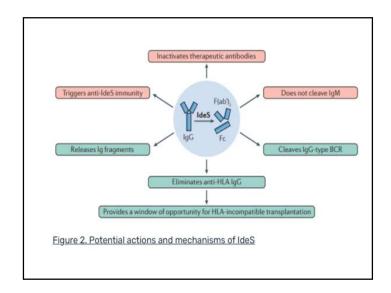


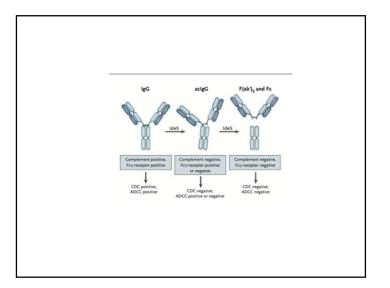












Imlifidase desensitization for highly sensitized kidney transplant candidates:

Proposed list price for imlifidase is \$170,000 per 11 mg vial. An average cost of treatment is expected to be \$355,000. Considering the cost of hemodialysis in the US is \$90,000/year, \$355,000 would be equal to the cost of 3.9 years of dialysis.

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