

Chronic Renal Failure

Chronic Kidney Disease 2004

“Mutatis mutandis”



Chronic Kidney Disease: Another Epidemic

Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey:

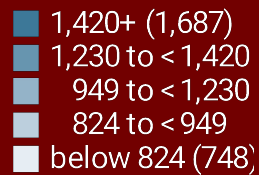
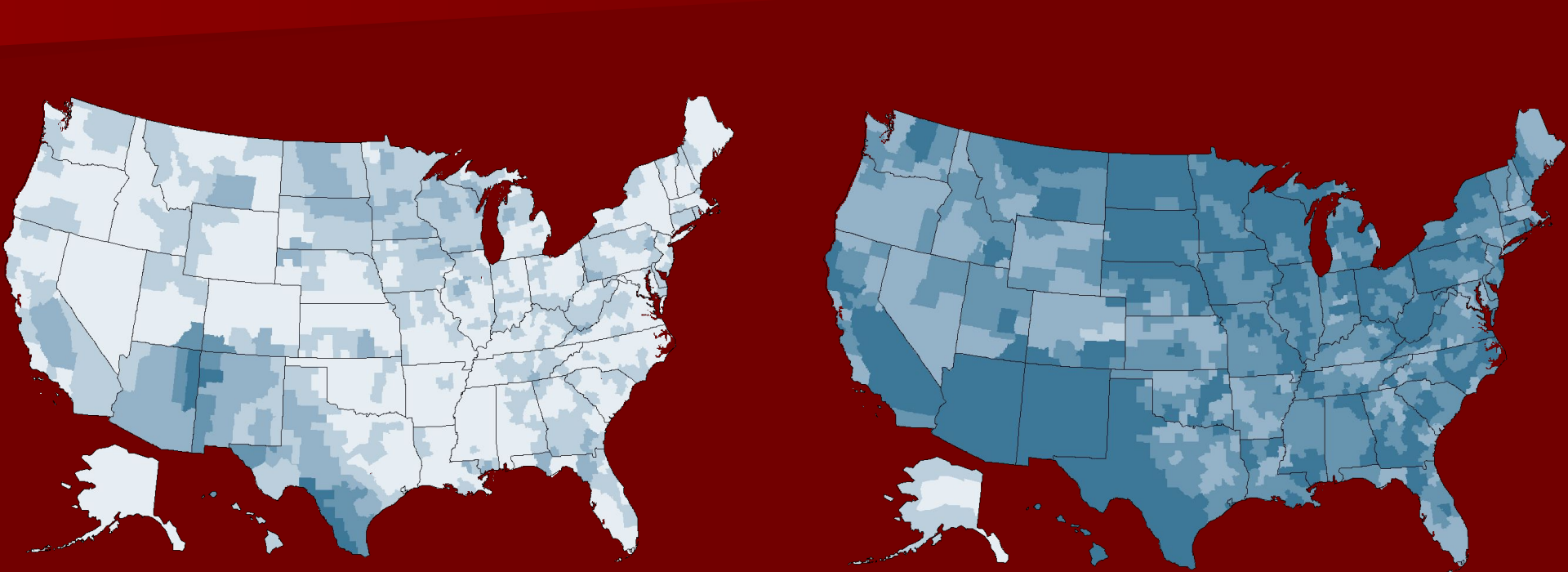
- 19.2 million have Chronic Kidney Disease (11%)
- 7.6 million have Stage III Chronic Kidney Disease (4.3%)
- 0.7 million have Stage IV and End Stage Renal Disease (0.4%)

Definition of:

- Chronic Kidney Disease = **GFR < 60 ml/min/1.73 m² or persistent albuminuria**
- Stage III Chronic Kidney Disease = **GFR 20-39 ml/min/1.73 m²**

Prevalence of ESRD: 1991 versus 2001

(per million population)



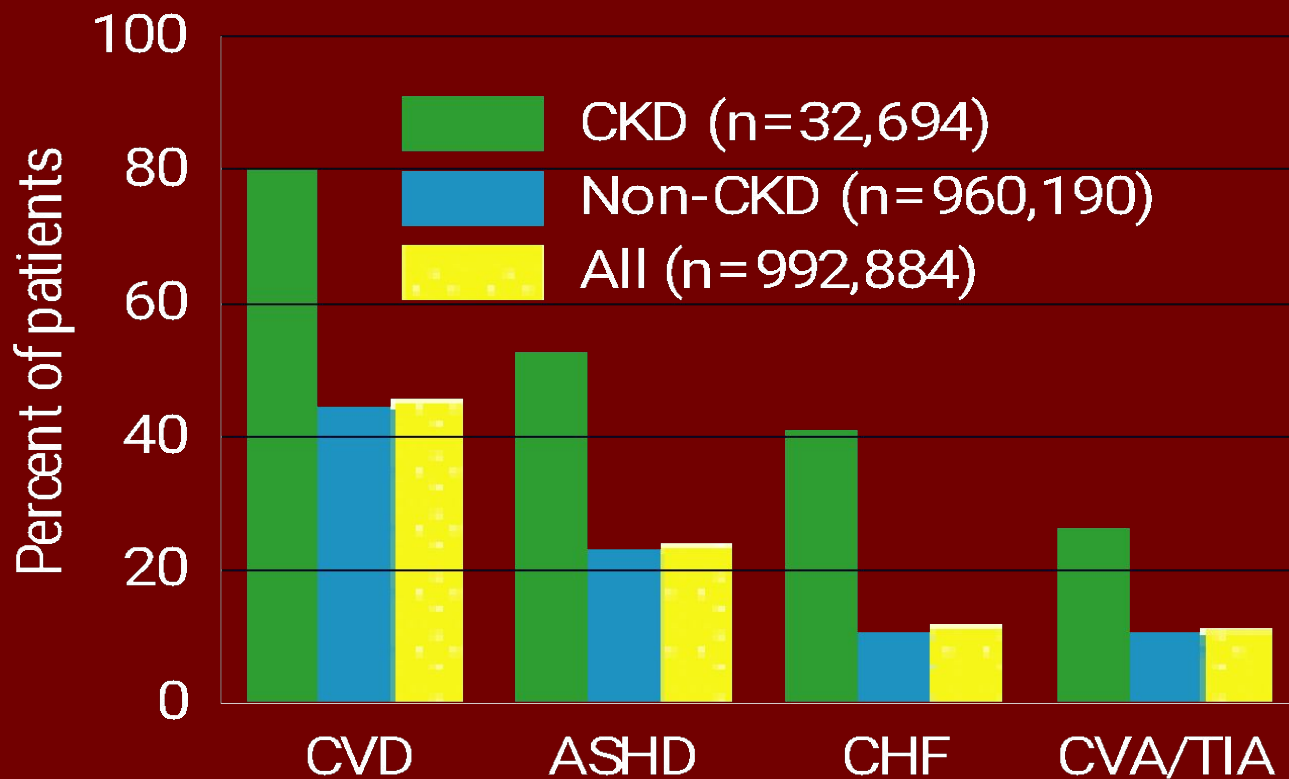
CKD: Problem for the Internist

The Seventh Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation and Treatment of High Blood Pressure (JNC VII)

Major Cardiovascular Risk Factors:

- -Hypertension
- -Cigarette Smoking
- -Obesity (BMI>30)
- -Physical Inactivity
- -Dyslipidemia
- -Diabetes Mellitus
- -**Microalbuminemia or Estimated GFR<60**
- -Age (>55 for men, >65 for women)
- -Family history of premature coronary artery disease (men<55, women<65)

Heart Disease is Highly Prevalent in the CKD Population



More Than Catches the Eye....

- **CKD is associated with:**

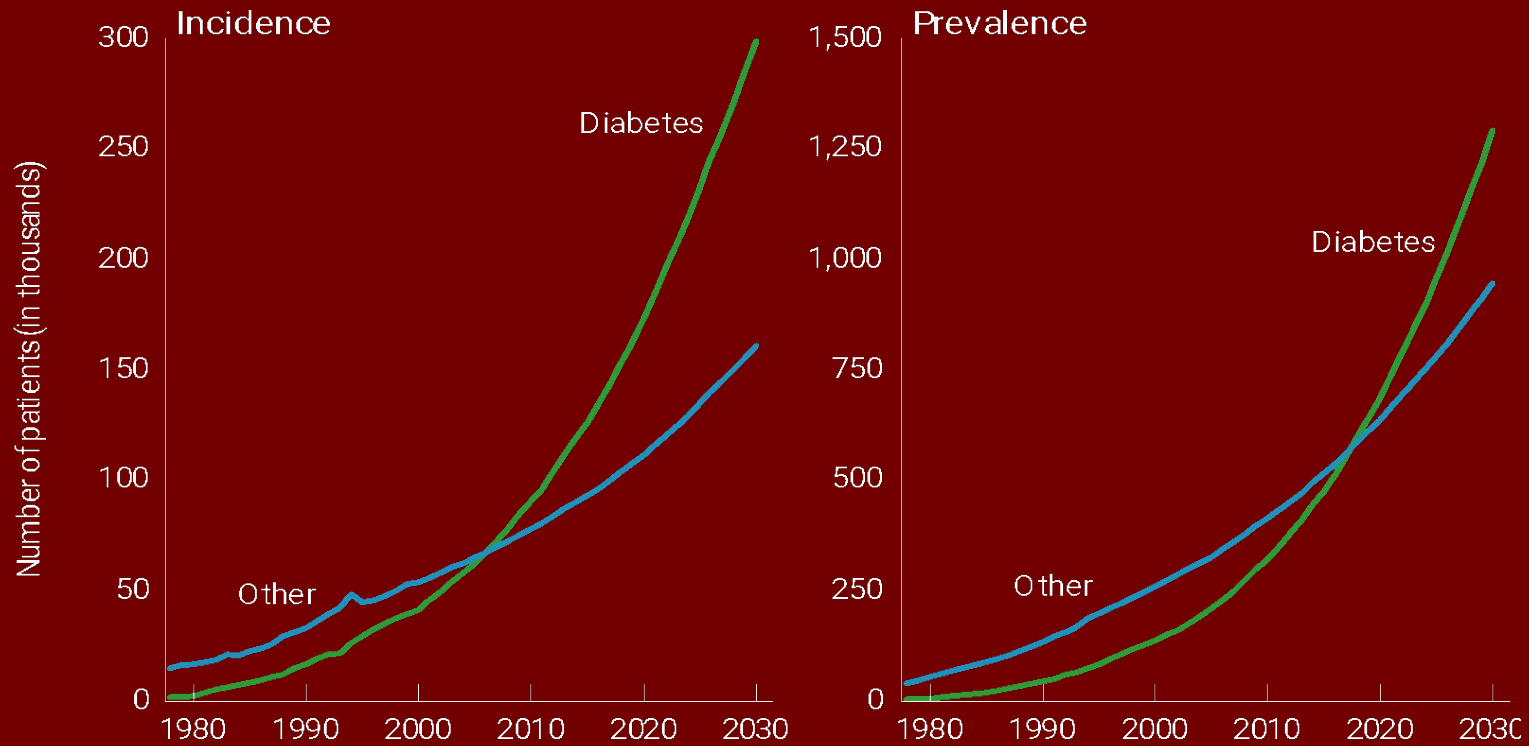
- Hypertension
- Cigarette Smoking
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- Dyslipidemia
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- Age (>55 for men, >65 for women)
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As well as:

- Anemia
- Left Ventricular Hypertrophy
- Inflammation
- Atherosclerosis
- Resistant hypertension/hypervolemia

CKD is Increasingly Associated with Diabetes Mellitus

(Predicted ESRD Incidence and Prevalence Rates due to Diabetic Nephropathy)



Chronic Kidney Disease: The Extreme Of Metabolic Syndrome?

- Ludovicus Giomus (**IInd Century** Roman physician of Greek origin):

“The prospect for chronic renal malady is rendered optimal by the combination of habitual excess of culinary pleasures and physical inactivity.”

(N.B. Historical Note:

The physician after this statement was hunted down by the angry Roman populace and forced to withdraw his remark.)

Risk Shared....alias You get what You Eat

- Many cardiovascular risk factors are also associated with faster deterioration of chronic kidney disease:
 - diabetes mellitus
 - hypertension
 - dyslipidemia
 - truncal obesity
 - smoking
 - proteinuria.....

Benefits of Cibus Rapidus!

- Salt: hypertension
- Protein: glomerular hypertension
- Sugars: diabetes melitus (55%)
- Lipid: dyslipidemia

You only need to add smoking. (The Romans did not have that yet...)

Function of the Normal Kidney-Highlights

- **Removal of toxic materials**
- **Excretion of excess salt and water**
- **Regulation of electrolyte concentrations**
- **Regulation of acid-base buffer systems**
- **Synthesis of erythropoietin**
- **Synthesis of vitamin D metabolites**
- **Metabolism of hormones and medications**
- **Synthesis of renin**

Function of the Normal Kidney-the “How”

- Renal function is a continuous function
- Multiple level adaptation: vascular, hormonal, osmotic, tubular
- Renal function is extremely dependent on adequate blood supply
- Cardio-renal axis: close cooperation with multiple feedback systems (ACEI, aldosterone tissue systems)

Chronic Kidney Disease-Pathophysiology: Glomerulus

- Final common pathway of no matter what underlying disease: adaptation to a decreased number of functioning nephrons and consequent decrease of filtration surface
- Hyperfiltration in the remaining nephrons
- Glomerular hypertension: increased mechanical stretch on mesangial and endothelial cells, detachment of podocytes
- Increased production of subclasses of collagen fibers: scarring, fibrosis (glomerulosclerosis)

Chronic Renal Failure- Pathophysiology: Vascular and Tubulointerstitial Systems

- **Loss of renal autoregulation**
- **Vascular hyaline formation**
- **Tubulointerstitial cells revert to myofibroblast stage: collagen formation**
- **Tubulointerstitial fibrosis correlates with kidney function**
- **Loss of tubular regulatory systems-isosthenuria**

Chronic Kidney Disease-Histopathology and Gross Anatomy

- **Widespread tubulointerstitial scarring means: white, echogenic kidneys on renal ultrasound**
- **Scarring and loss of parenchyma means small (< 10 cm) kidney sizes on renal ultrasound**
- **If biopsy of the kidney is performed in cases of doubt: fibrosis (focal and segmental or global) in the glomerulus and between renal tubules (especially on trichrome stain:blue)**

Main Functional Problems In Chronic Kidney Disease

Renal dysfunction

**Hypervolemia, Hypertension, Salt
retention**

Proteinuria, Metabolic Disturbances

Anemia and Iron deficiency

**Uremic bone disease,
hyperphosphatemia**

**Electrolyte problems: hyperkalemia,
acidosis**

**Cognitive impairment, depression and
denial**

Renal Dysfunction: What we Do Know and What we Do Not

We know:

Patients with very impaired renal function will go into coma, have painful neuropathy and are very malnourished and susceptible to infections

We do not know:

What exactly causes these phenomena? **We think** that these are due to some mysterious “uremic toxins” because dialysis, a filtering technique improves and prevents **some** of these problems

Renal Dysfunction- More Mystery

- We usually estimate renal dysfunction by markers rather than actual toxins
- On most of the range of these measurements renal dysfunction is asymptomatic
- This situation makes many patients reluctant to believe that there is something wrong until it is very late and renal dysfunction becomes symptomatic
- Therefore patients are often malnourished, develop infections and renal replacement therapy has to be promptly started

Renal Dysfunction: Estimators of GFR

- Creatinine Clearance-measured
- Plasma (serum) creatinine
- Creatinine Clearance-calculated
- Creatinine clearance after cimetidine
- Creatinine and Urea Clearance- arithmetic average
- Most other methods are yet unavailable in everyday clinical practice

Flashback: Theory of Creatinine Clearance

- **Clearance**: volume of body fluid cleared by the kidney in a given amount of time
- Creatinine is largely filtered by the glomerulus and secreted minimally by the tubules (except in advanced CKD) and therefore a reasonable estimator of GFR
- Ideal substance for clearance estimation, inulin, used in research, creatinine is a good compromise

Creatinine Clearance versus GFR: Urine Side Methods

- $CrCl_x = \frac{\text{Serum Cr}}{\text{Urine Cr}} \times \text{Urine Volume}$
- $CrCl = \frac{\text{Urine Cr}}{\text{Serum Cr}} \times \frac{\text{Urine Volume during elapsed time}}{\text{Time in minutes}}$
- $CrCl = \frac{\text{Urine Cr}}{\text{Serum Cr}} \times \frac{\text{Urine Volume (cc per 24 hour)}}{1440}$

Clinical Practice:

“24 hour urine collection”

avoid over- or under-collection, these are common sources of error, repeat at least once

Stage III, IV CKD: do the same for urea clearance and calculate arithmetic average with creatinine clearance

or add cimetidine to block tubular secretion of creatinine!

Estimating GFR: Blood Side Methods

- Cockcroft-Gault formula:

$$\frac{140 - \text{age}}{\text{Se Cr}} \times \frac{\text{weight (ideal)}}{72} \quad [\times 0.85 \text{ for females}]$$

Works well for creatinine for stage I or II CKD.

- MDRD formula : Too complicated but correlates well in more advanced CKD, used very often now

Blood Side Methods versus Urine Side Methods

- Based on plasma creatinine
- Depends not only on renal function but also on muscle mass.
- In the elderly and malnourished low creatinine can be associated with advanced renal failure
- Must use the appropriate corrective formula
- Easy to perform, changes in time can be easily followed up
- Based on urine collection
- Urine collections are rarely accurate as they may be incomplete
- The more advanced the renal failure the more creatinine is secreted by the tubules making this technique less and less precise in estimating glomerular filtration.
- Creatinine based collection must be corrected by cimetidine or urea clearance

Chronic Kidney Disease- A Spectrum of Renal Dysfunction

- Normal Glomerular Filtration Rate (80-120 ml/min) is a relative term and must be adjusted to body surface area
- Women, the elderly and patients with smaller body frame may filter less
- Filtration is only one of the many functions of the kidney, yet only this is measured directly

In a Perfect World.....

- Imagine that you have measured GFR accurately-then
- $\text{GFR} < 60$ worry about hypertension, proteinuria, hyperlipidemia, hypervolemia, increased cardiac risks
- $\text{GFR} < 40$ worry about anemia, iron deficiency and start worrying about bone disease, especially in diabetics
- $\text{GFR} < 20$ worry about malnutrition, infections, acidosis, pericarditis, pulmonary edema and hyperkalemia

Additional “Uremic” Symptoms

- Chronic hypervolemia-hidden in the abdomen, causing hypertension, mainly systolic
- Insomnia, disturbed circadian rhythm
- Increased sympathetic activity
- Maintained high blood pressure at night
- Nausea, muscle wasting, weight loss
- Depression, denial, impaired judgment
- Gastrointestinal bleeding

Risk Factors and Predictors of Progression

- CKD is beyond the point of no return- further progression is the rule the only question is its speed
- Speed is determined by risk factors of progression
- Treating risk factors is the primary goal of treatment to slow down progression- so learn them NOW

Risk Factors Associated with Progression

- **Level of renal impairment:** worse renal function is likely to get worse faster
Estimators: GFR, renal size
- **Proteinuria:** more proteinuria means more glomerular hypertension and more subsequent damage
Estimators: 24 hour collection or spot urine protein/creatinine ratio
- **Hypertension:** speeds renal decline dramatically
Estimator: multiple blood pressure measurements or 24 hour blood pressure monitoring

More Risk Factors

- Hyperlipidemia
- Smoking
- Obesity (especially visceral)
- Sleep apnea
- Excessive protein (meat) intake

Remembering Sun Tzu: the Strategy

- Early on handle renal dysfunction by slowing down renal progression: treat hypertension and proteinuria, lipids, smoking, blood sugars, obesity
- Later you can only fix specific problems: anemia, metabolic acidosis, bone disease
- $Gfr < 20$ ml/min you have to start thinking: renal replacement therapy (we have a whole hour to cover that!)

Specific Problems in CKD: Hypertension

- Hypertension accelerates the progression of CKD
- CKD also produces hypertension by: impaired salt excretion, increased sympathetic activity and often by increased renin activity (renovascular hypertension is common in Americans of European descent)-revascularization may be needed
- Hypertension in CKD is often resistant or difficult to treat
- Hypertension makes proteinuria worse so.....

Treat Hypertension!

- Restrict salt intake and give diuretics
- Aim for strict control: if proteinuria present all the way down to 120/75
- Certain classes of blood pressure medicines are more beneficial than others: Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors and Angiotensin Receptor Blockers
- Titrate these to urine protein of less than 1 gm, at least

Salt Restriction is Still Important!

- “Perhaps if the value of a salt-restricted intake was rediscovered in the USA, control of hypertension in dialysis patients would improve.” (Sheldon, 2000)
- Patients often eat five times the amount of 2 gm sodium allowed, especially when eating out (memento cibus rapidus)
- Chronic hypervolemia is especially typical in Diabetic Nephropathy
- Edema may be a late sign of volume overload
- Typically, loop diuretics needed but thiazides in combination with loop diuretics may also be useful
- Spironolactone is useful, especially in heart failure, but is limited by hyperkalemia
- Diastolic dysfunction is very prevalent, due to LVH

Proteinuria

- Both a marker of renal progression and subsequent cardiac disease AND a cause of tubular damage
- Hypertension makes proteinuria worse
- Excessive protein intake increases proteinuria
- Proteinuria is a good marker of glomerular hypertension

Treat Proteinuria!

- Treat hypertension!
- Take dietary history- restrict protein intake if excessive (a relative term- we usually aim for 1 gm/kg/day, Italians 0.6-0.8)
- Give ACEI and/or AIIRB and titrate it to minimize proteinuria but at least <1gm/day
- Nephrotic range proteinuria may often be a feature of (chronic) diabetic nephropathy- treat vigorously

Heart Disease

- In a sequel to the Framingham study....even early (serum creatinine <2) renal failure is associated with an up to sevenfold increase of cardiac risk
- Hypervolemia, hypertension, anemia, hyperparathyroidism can all worsen left ventricular hypertrophy- itself associated with cardiac death
- Renal dysfunction and especially advanced renal dysfunction (“uremic state”) is thought to accelerate atherosclerosis

Treat Heart Disease!

- Eliminate risk factors, improve diet
- Control hypertension and hypervolemia
- Give ACEI and AIIRB and (when appropriate) beta blockers
- Treat lipid disorders
- Make the patient stop smoking
- Encourage dieting and exercise
- Increased awareness of cardiovascular risk in patients with either proteinuria or renal dysfunction

Anemia

- Normochromic normocytic anemia is associated with erythropoietin deficiency
- Iron deficiency is common
- Gastrointestinal conditions associated with blood loss and decreased iron absorption are common
- Estimated GFR less than 30-40 ml/min- think about this

Treat Anemia!

- Give erythropoietin
- Give oral iron
- Think about increased risk for gastrointestinal bleeding
- Treating anemia will reduce left ventricular hypertrophy and may reduce cardiac risk
- Treating anemia may slow renal progression and infections, improves LVH and probably decreases cardiovascular mortality

Uremic Bone Disease

- Several histologic forms: osteitis fibrosa cystica, low-turnover bone disease and osteomalatia
- Most common form is caused by rapid bone turnover caused by increased parathyroid hormone secretion (secondary hyperparathyroidism)
- Bone disease presents earlier in diabetics

Secondary Hyperparathyroidism

- Loss of GFR causes decrease of renal ability to secrete phosphorus
- There is also decrease of synthesis of vitamin D3 causing impaired calcium absorption
- Both hyperphosphatemia (more common) and hypocalcemia (less common) induces parathyroid cells to secrete more parathyroid hormones
- Parathyroid hormone increases both osteoclast and osteoblast function causing rapid bone resorption and formation termed: high turnover

Rapid Bone Turnover meaning....

- More bone fractures
- Achy bones- sometimes difficult to differentiate from osteoarthritis (also common in renal disease)
- Hyperphosphatemia commonly causes itching
- Hyperparathyroidism may worsen LVH

Treat Bone Disease!

- Measure and restrict phosphorus!
- Give phosphate binders: ionic resins or complexes that bind phosphorus in the GI tract preventing its absorption-always with meals
- Give calcium and/or vitamin D if calcium is low
- Vitamin D suppresses parathyroid hormone secretion especially if phosphorus is controlled
- Give alkali to correct metabolic acidosis

Dietary Management

- CKD stage I to III: restrict salt, protein, phosphorus, treat lipid abnormalities and hyperglycemia (people tend to eat too much)
- CKD stage IV: restrict salt, potassium, phosphorus (still too much)
- CKD stage IV: replace alkali, check for protein malnutrition, muscle wasting, weight loss, consider diuretics

Chronic Disease also Means....

- Depression and denial- regular follow up visits, talk to your patients
- Simplify medication regimens
- Work closely with dietician and social workers
- Refer to nephrologist early

Common Medications Need- Renal Adjustment!

- Many CKD patients are diabetics- less insulin is needed. Certain medications cannot be used (methformin may cause severe lactic acidosis) certain other medications (sulfonylureas) must be used with caution.
- Higher diuretic dosages are commonly needed
- Many antibiotics need reduction in dosages
- Many common analgesics (non-steroidals) are contraindicated
- Many other medicines need dose adjustments!
- Consult PDR, pharmacist or a nephrologist

Summary

- 1. CKD has an increasing incidence**
- 2. Probably part of the Metabolic Syndrome**
- 3. Shares many cardiovascular risk factors**
- 4. Risk factor management is helpful slowing down renal decline**
- 5. Specific problems: salt retention, anemia, bone disease, malnutrition, electrolyte abnormalities have to be addressed one by one**
- 6. Medications need adjustment and often need to change**