Corticosteroids in tubulointerstitial nephritis

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Received: 24 October 2013 / Revised: 4 November 2013 / Accepted: 18 November 2013 / Published online: 8 December 2013
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Sir,

In a recent article published in *Pediatric Nephrology*, Timo Jahnukainen et al. [1] concluded that prednisone speeds up recovery from symptoms of tubulointerstitial nephritis (TIN) in children but that the renal prognosis of glucocorticoid-treated patients did not differ from that of patients without glucocorticoid treatment at 6–12 months after diagnosis. This may raise the question of the necessity of glucocorticoid treatment in some patients.

The authors did not mention in their paper that there is an important exception: sarcoidosis. Granulomatous TIN is a renal lesion associated with sarcoidosis that leads to end stage renal disease in some patients [2]. In these cases, interstitial fibrosis seems to appear early in the course of sarcoidosis and is a major prognostic factor. Treatment consists of rapid corticosteroid therapy to reduce the risk of severe renal impairment. Thus, the conclusions of these authors are not valid.

Renal sarcoidosis in childhood is rare, but in an earlier study we reported 11 cases [3], with some patients reaching end stage renal failure, thereby confirming the necessity of a rapid corticosteroid treatment and the need for the treating physician to be aware of sarcoidosis in cases of TIN in children.

References

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