

Progressive Renal Failure – Can it be Prevented?

Napier M Thomson

Department of Medicine, Monash Medical School
The Alfred Hospital, Prahran, Melbourne VIC Australia 3181

Progressive renal damage may arise from a variety of primary and secondary (to systemic diseases) renal diseases. The rate of development of renal damage depends on numerous factors, including the type of initial renal disease, development of hypertension, genetic influences and whether or not the initial disease can be effectively treated. Whatever the initial disease, progressive renal damage often results from common mechanisms which potentially can be therapeutically targeted.

This lecture will describe the known mechanisms and mediators of progressive renal injury and the evidence for effective therapeutic interventions especially targeting hypertension and proteinuria. Given the world wide epidemic of diabetes and associated nephropathy, the effectiveness of the therapeutic interventions at the various stages of diabetic nephropathy will be particularly discussed, interventions which in early nephropathy can halt renal damage and even in more advanced disease can substantially slow damage.