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Contact: Shari Leventhal: 202-416-0658, sleventhal@asn-online.org (before Oct. 27)
October 27–28: ASN Management Office, America’s Center, Room 130, (314) 342-5511
Friday, Oct. 29 – Monday, Nov. 1: ASN Media Room, America’s Center, Room 250,
(314) 342-5508 (media room), 202-236-8142 (after hours)

**FINDINGS WARRANT FURTHER RESEARCH TO PREVENT HIGH RATE
OF CARDIAC DEATH IN DIALYSIS PATIENTS**

St. Louis, MO (October 29, 2004)— Cardiac disease is the single largest cause of death in patients with end-stage renal disease and occurs more frequently than in the general population, and researchers want to know why. This is the basis for a new study being presented at the American Society of Nephrology’s 37th Annual Meeting and Scientific Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri.

The recent study, performed by Dr. Charles A. Herzog and colleagues, reviewed the medical records of more than one and a half million patients in the United States Renal Data System (USRDS), 8,749 of which were hospitalized from 1999-2002 for coronary artery bypass surgery (CAB). In the study, 2,247 patients received percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) alone; and 12,840 patients received a combination of PTCA/Stents.

The study indicates that even after improved myocardial blood supply, dialysis patients are vulnerable to sudden cardiac death from arrhythmia. “These patients may require more aggressive long-term therapeutic strategies for the prevention of arrhythmically-mediated death. The research findings warrant analysis of viable approaches, including implantable cardioverter defibrillators to help prevent sudden cardiac death in dialysis patients,” said Herzog, Director, Cardiovascular Special Studies Center, USRDS.

Dr. Herzog will present the study results at a news briefing from 12:15 – 1:15 p.m. on Friday, October 29 in Room 251 of the America’s Center. The study abstract, “Cause-Specific Mortality of Dialysis Patients after Coronary Revascularization: Why Don’t Dialysis Patients Have Better Survival after Coronary Intervention?” (F-FC013) will be presented during a Free Communications session on Friday, October 29 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 123 of the America’s Center.

The ASN is a not-for-profit organization of 9,000 physicians and scientists dedicated to the study of nephrology and committed to providing a forum for the promulgation of information regarding the latest research and clinical findings on kidney diseases. ASN’s Renal Week 2004, the largest nephrology meeting of its kind, will provide a forum for more than 12,000 nephrologists to discuss the latest findings in renal research and engage in educational sessions relating advances in the care of patients with kidney and related disorders from October 27- November 1, 2004 at the America’s Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

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