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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)

**NOCTURNAL DIALYSIS MAY STOP PROGRESSION OF CARDIOVASCULAR RISK FACTOR IN PATIENTS WITH KIDNEY FAILURE**

**St. Louis, MO (October 29, 2004)**— Nocturnal or night-time dialysis may prevent the usual progression of calcium build-up in the coronary arteries, called coronary calcification, among patients with kidney failure, compared to those who are on the standard therapy of hemodialysis three times a week, according to a new study being presented at the American Society of Nephrology’s 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Scientific Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri.

Coronary calcification is a significant cardiovascular risk factor among ESRD patients, who have up to ten times more coronary calcification than the general population. These patients show an increase in their calcification even after one year of diagnosis. Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death among patients with ESRD.

“This study adds to the growing evidence that nocturnal dialysis is a beneficial alternative to hemodialysis,” says Christopher Chan, Medical Director – Home Hemodialysis, Toronto General Hospital in Toronto, Canada.

This is the first time the progression of coronary calcification was studied in ESRD patients on nocturnal dialysis (NHD). The prospective cohort study examined coronary calcification by spiral-computed tomography (CT) scans in 14 NHD patients before and after one year of treatment. Findings show that NHD stabilized coronary calcification in these patients through improved control of uremia, normalization of calcium & phosphate balance, and enhanced control of secondary hyperparathyroidism.

The study results will be presented 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, “Nocturnal Hemodialysis Results in Stable Coronary Calcification as Measured by Helical Computed Tomography in Patients with End Stage Renal Disease” will be presented during a Poster session on Friday, October 29 at 10:00 a.m. in Halls 2-4 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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