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Clinical and Molecular Aspects of Current Therapies of the Immune-Mediated Kidney Diseases in Children and Adolescents

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The wide spectrum of pediatric immune-mediated kidney diseases involves a variety of specific therapies. The classic therapeutic approach is focused on specific targets in the immune system, including cell receptors or intracellular enzymes. Blocking and/or depleting the activities of specific agents is used as an underlying therapeutic mechanism and a final clinical effect—the remission of the immunologic disease and relevant improvement, or at least the stabilization of kidney function to determine the duration and timing of the therapy. Depending on the drug specificity, therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) or pre-dose evaluation of the target cell number serves as a cornerstone for dose adjustment. Balancing between the efficacy and safety of long-term therapy, selecting less invasive combined drug protocols and developing more precise diagnostic and monitoring tools are ongoing challenges in clinical practice and research in pediatric nephrology.

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