

Special Issue

Challenges and Opportunities in Geriatric Nephrology and Urology

Message from the Guest Editor

The increase in the average age of the population gives rise to a series of problems at various levels, including health. In the field of nephrology, in the elderly, two phenomena can occur as follows: a "physiological" process of sclerosis causes the number of functioning nephrons to decrease as the age advances, and this not only reduces the performance that the kidneys offer to the body community, but increases the risk of other pathologies, of which renal failure is an independent risk factor. The other phenomenon is the recourse in the elderly patient to the so-called "renal functional reserve", a mechanism that increases the filtrate of residual nephrons, thanks to the mediation activating vasodilating prostaglandins, and this explains why, in the elderly, drugs that inhibit prostaglandins and/or tend to induce dehydration have a much more negative effect on kidney function than in young people. Another aspect is the increase in the average age of both the donors and recipients of a kidney transplant. It is therefore very important for nephrologists to acquire specific knowledge aimed at this increasingly large group of patients.

Guest Editor

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