

Contrast Nephropathy

58th ERA-EDTA Congress, June 5-8 2021

- Masoud Khosravi, M.D., Nephrologist
- Guilin University of Medical Sciences
- 000709
- 01 Oct 21





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Leitung: Prof. Dr. med. Julia Weinmann-Menke

Changes in the landscape of contrast nephropathy

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Daniel Kraus

Changes in the landscape of
contrast nephropathy





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I have no conflicts of interest to declare



When we see *nothing*, contrast media
enable us to see *something*



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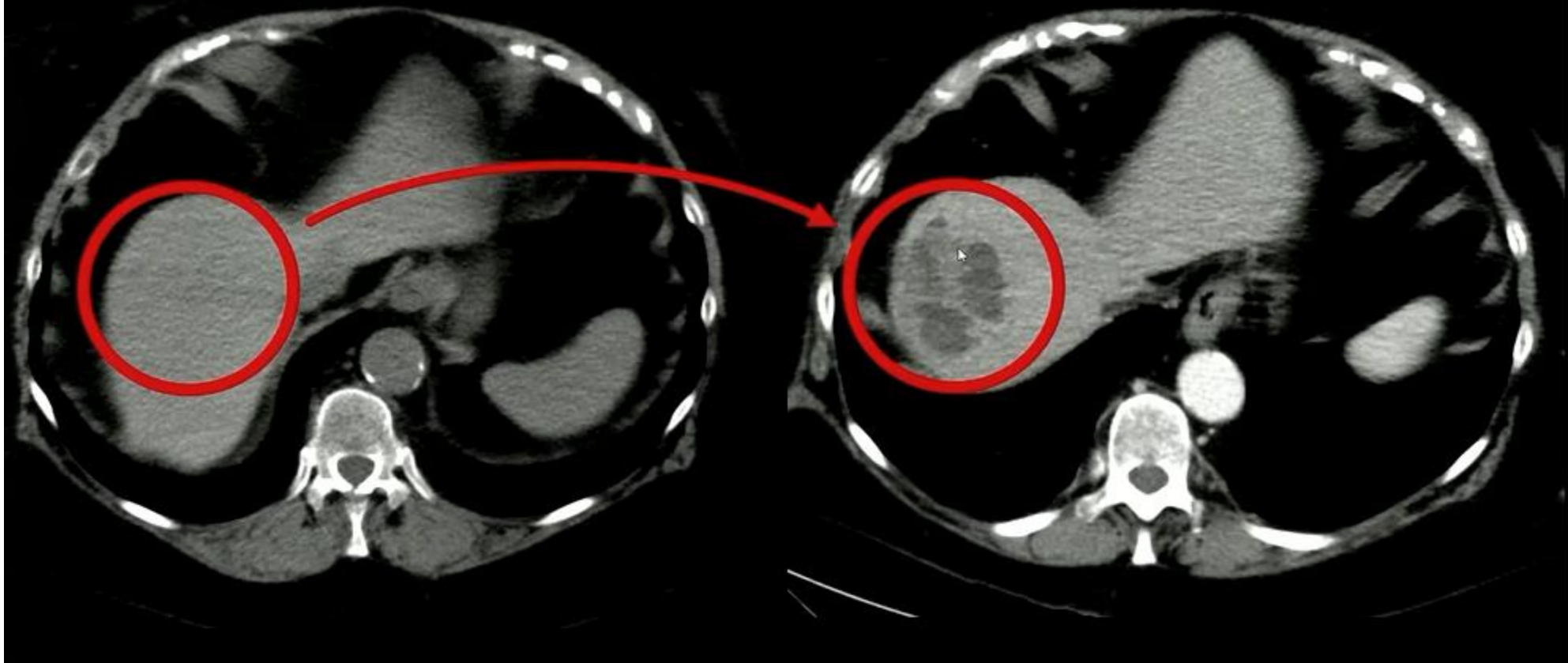


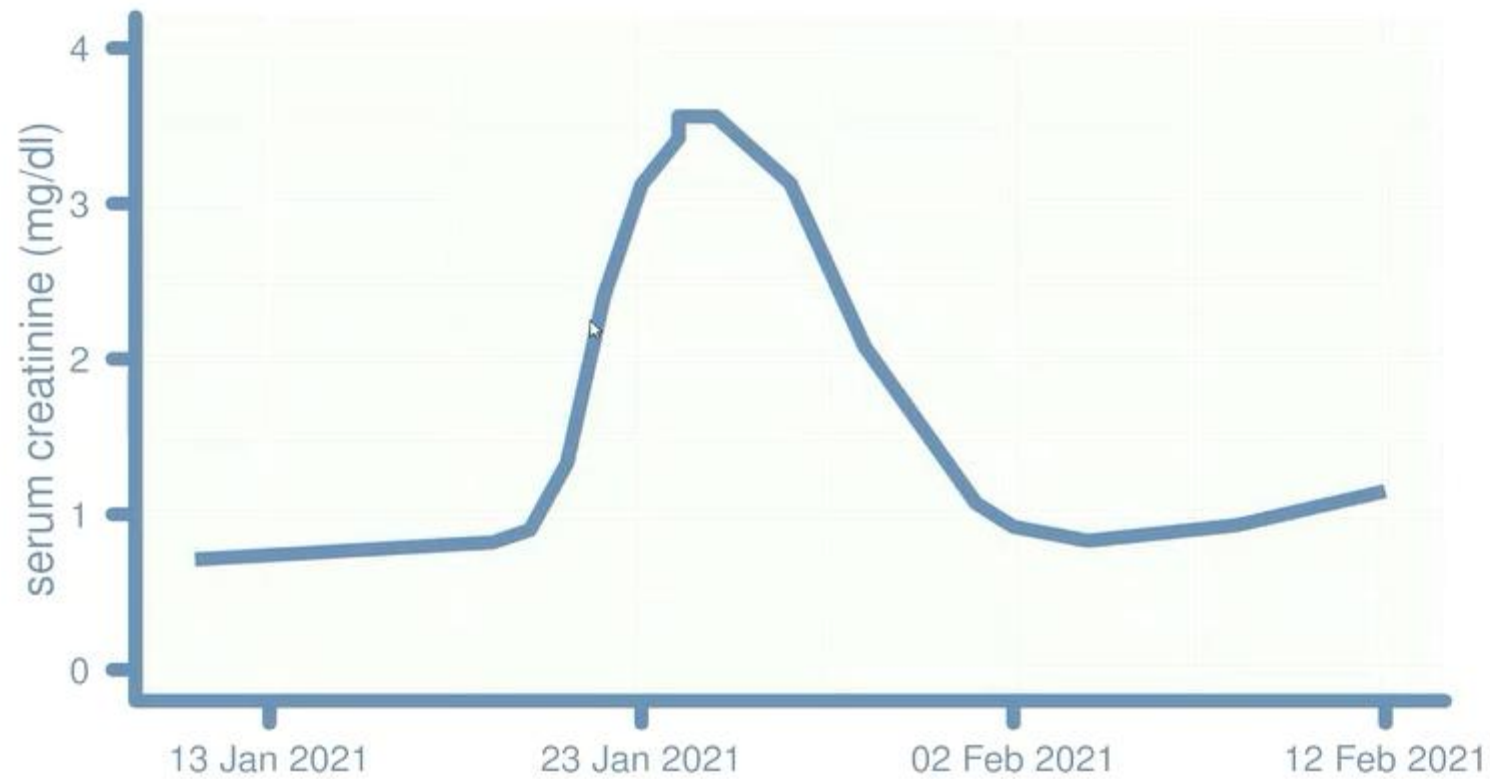
When we see *nothing*, contrast media enable us to see *something*

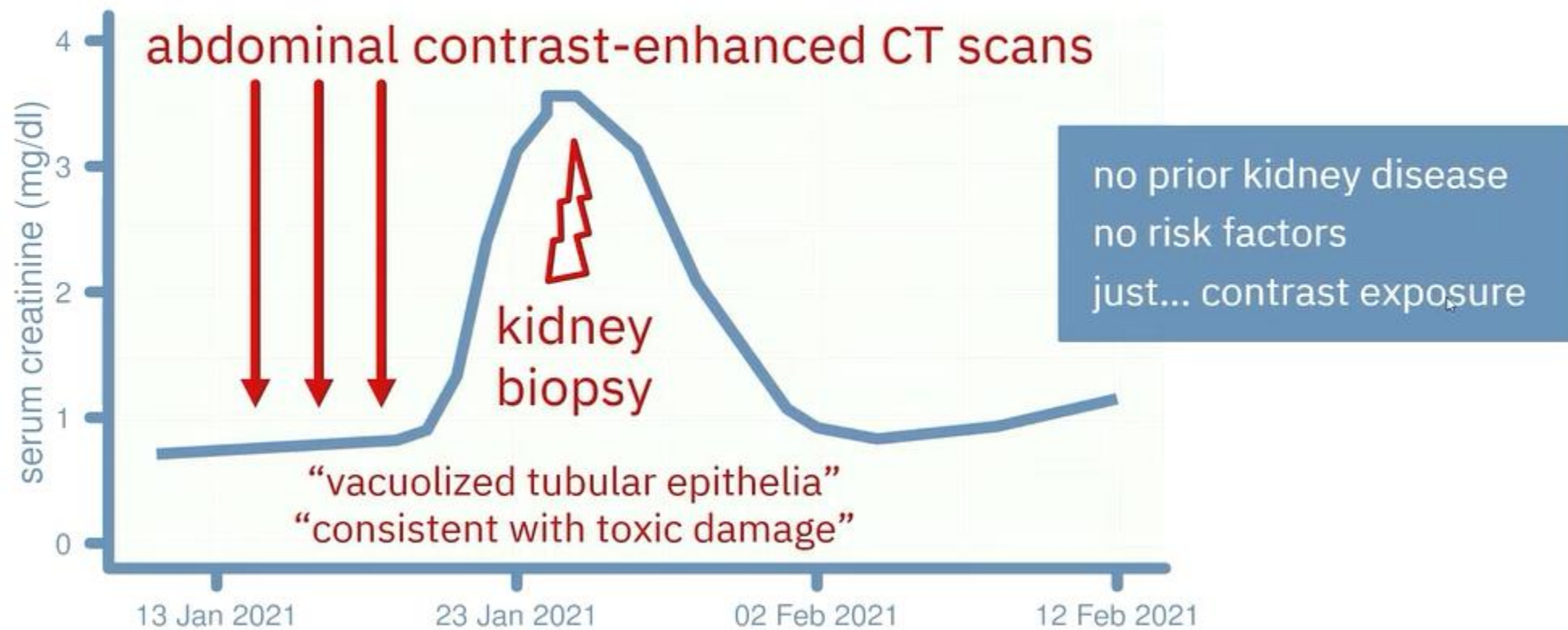


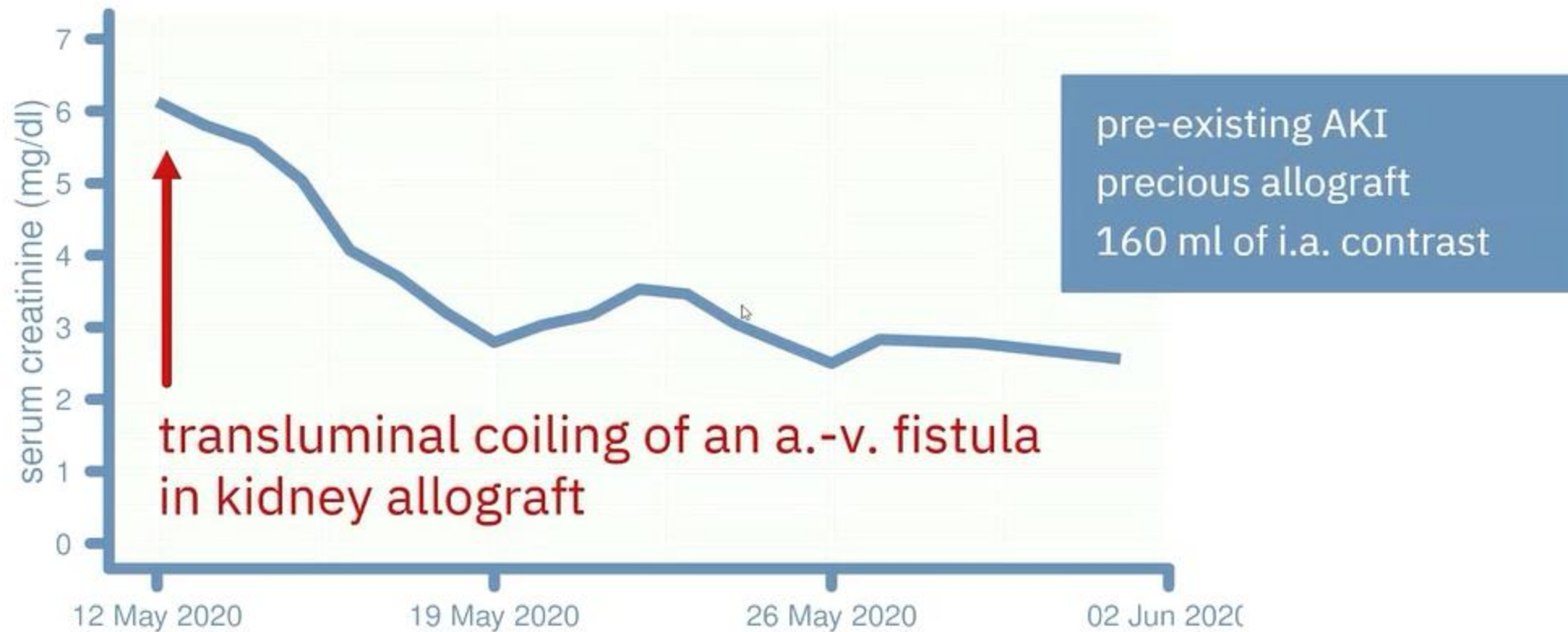
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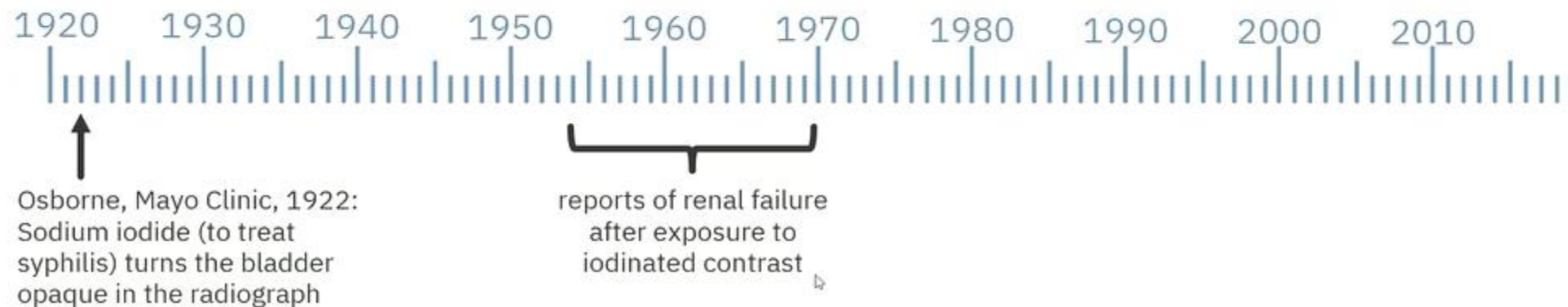


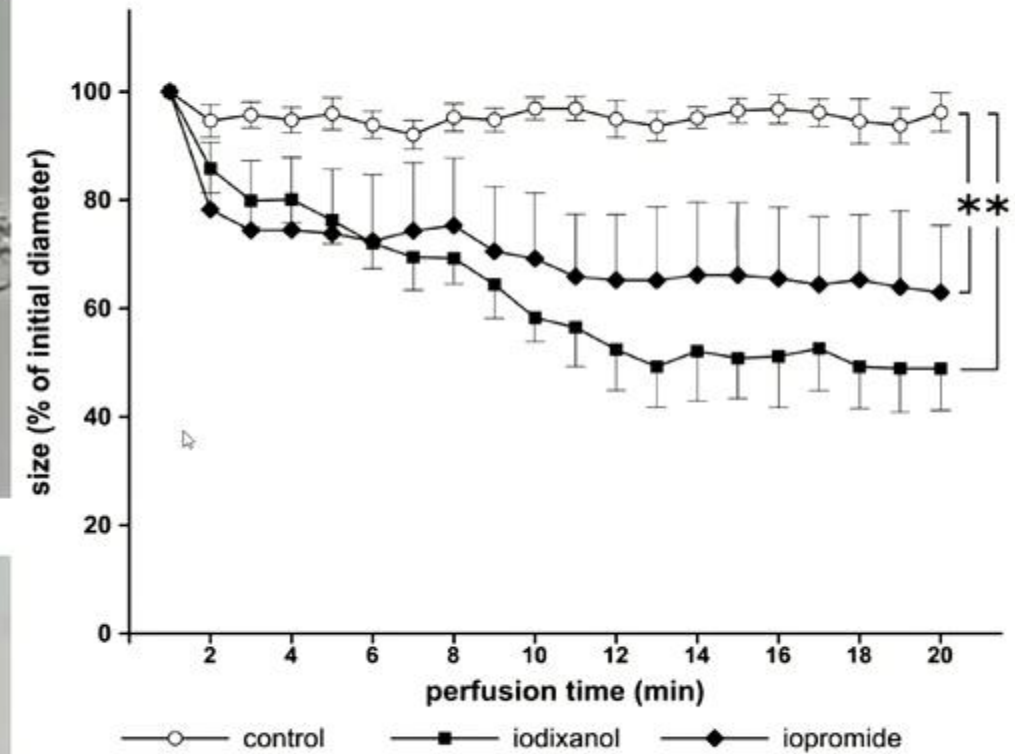
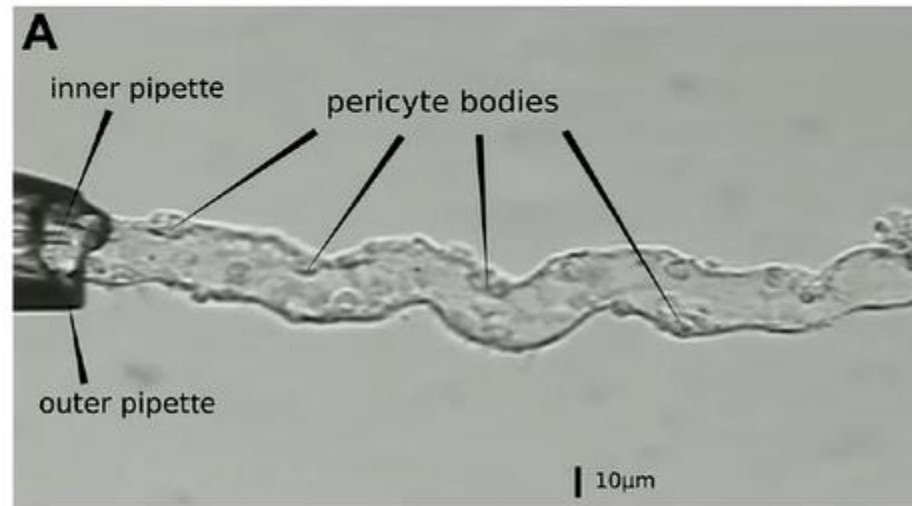
A very short history of post-contrast acute kidney injury (PC-AKI)



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Sendeski *et al.*, Invest. Radiol. 2010; Sendeski *et al.*, Am J Physiol 2012



A very short history of post-contrast acute kidney injury (PC-AKI)

none of these and other prevention studies
included a control group
without contrast exposure



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PRESERVE (2018)

ACC vs. placebo
0.9% NaCl vs. bicarbonate

AMACING (2017)

0.9% NaCl
vs. nothing

ACT (2011)
acetylcysteine
vs. placebo



↑
Osborne, Mayo Clinic, 1922:
Sodium iodide (to treat
syphilis) turns the bladder
opaque in the radiograph

└──┬──┘
reports of renal failure
after exposure to
iodinated contrast

↑
Mehran Risk Score



Clinical epidemiology of post-contrast AKI

Only very few controlled studies



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systematic PubMed query
3081 articles
40 (1.3%) with intravenous contrast
2 controlled studies

Rao & Newhouse, Radiology 2006



Two prospective, controlled studies



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Cramer *et al.*, Arch Int Med 1985

- two centers (Montreal, CA)
- non-randomized CT with/without CM
- AKI with CM: 4/193 (2.1%)
- AKI without CM: 3/233 (1.3%)
- $p = 0.53$
- “high-risk cohort” ($\text{SCr} > 1.5 \text{ mg/dl}$)
 - AKI with CM: 0/19 (0%)
 - AKI without CM: 2/46 (4.3%)

Heller *et al.*, Med J Aus 1991

- single center (Newcastle, NSW, AUS)
- randomized CT with/without CM
- AKI with CM: 12/292 (4.1%)
- AKI without CM: 16/405 (4.0%)
- OR 1.06 (95% CI: 0.5-2.3)





We will never get a large RCT on this topic



Propensity score matching

The next best thing if you can't have RCTs



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- retrospective, single center
- n = 251,728
- risk groups:
 - SCr < 1.5 mg/dl: n = 102,590
 - $1.5 \leq \text{SCr} < 2$: n = 11,357
 - SCr ≥ 2 mg/dl: n = 2,747
- incidence of AKI independent of CM exposure
- special feature: counterfactual analysis
 - patients with CT + and – CM
 - patients serve as their own controls

Risk of AKI after CT Scan in the Counterfactual Data Set

Variable	AKI
Group	
Contrast enhanced*	194/4265 (4.5)
Unenhanced*	209/4265 (4.9)
Unadjusted analysis [†]	
Odds ratio [‡]	0.92 (0.75, 1.13)
P value	.46
Adjusted analysis [§]	
Odds ratio [‡]	0.97 (0.79, 1.18)
P value	.65

McDonald *et al.*, Radiology 2013

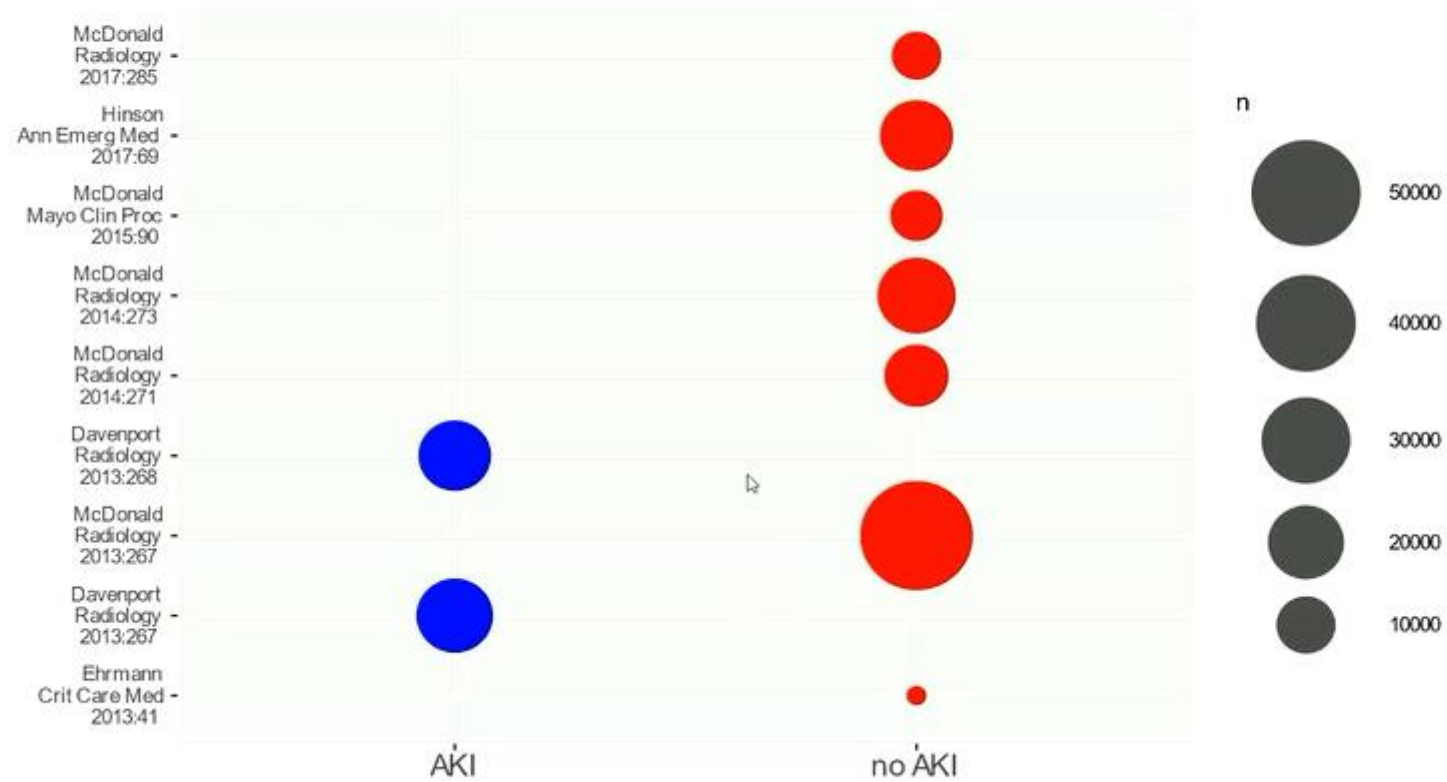


Studies with propensity-score matching i.v. contrast



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Daniel Kraus, unpublished



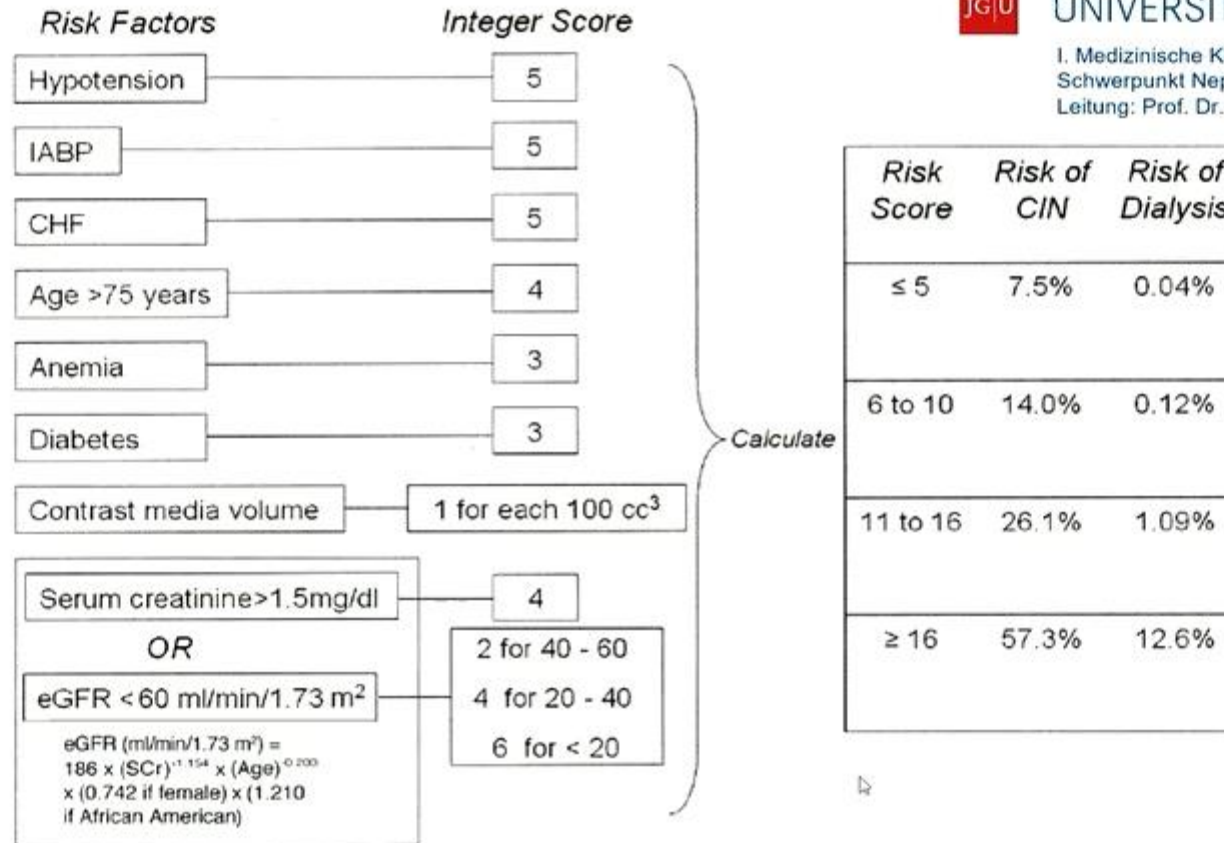


Figure 5. Scheme to define contrast-induced nephropathy (CIN) risk score. Anemia = baseline hematocrit value <39% for men and <36% for women; CHF = congestive heart failure class III/IV by New York Heart Association classification and/or history of pulmonary edema; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; hypotension = systolic blood pressure <80 mm Hg for at least 1 h requiring inotropic support with medications or intra-aortic balloon pump (IABP) within 24 h periprocedurally.



These are all general risk factors
for kidney failure



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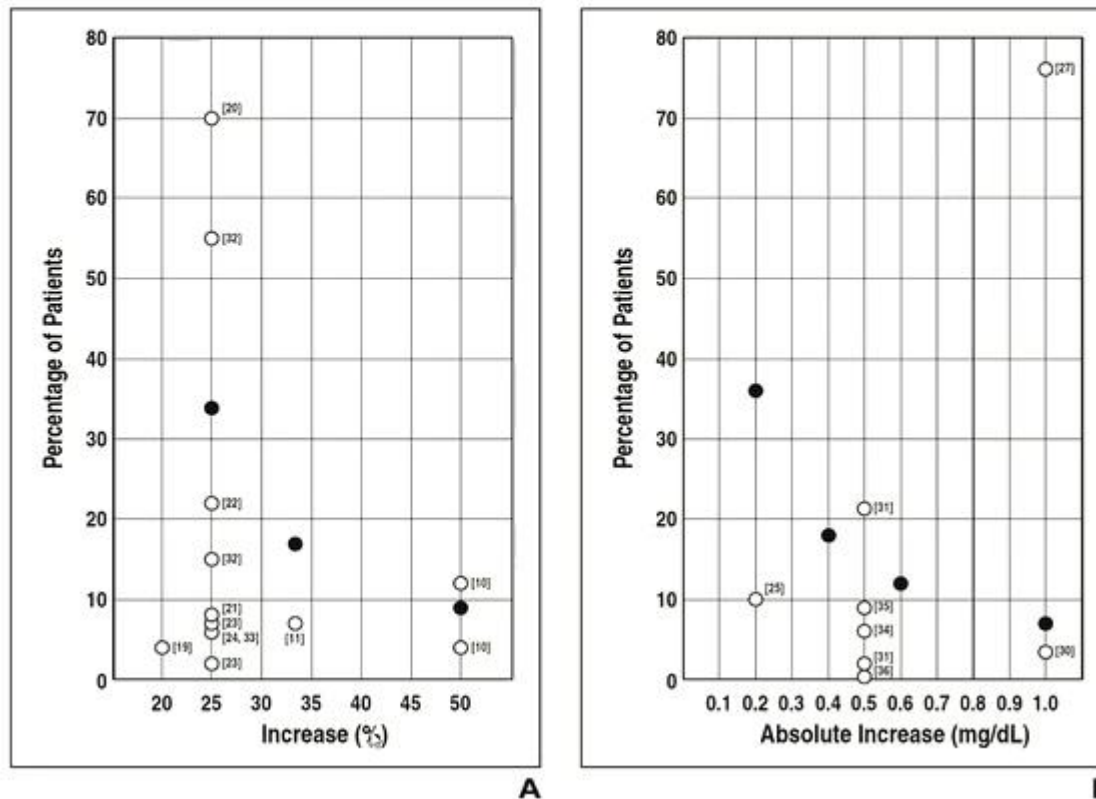


Increases in creatinine levels are commonplace in hospitalized patients even without contrast



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Clinical Data Warehouse
n = 32,161
SCr measured 5 days in a row
no contrast exposure

- no CM (current study)
- CM (published incidences)

Newhouse *et al.*, Am J Radiol 2008



Does contrast reduce residual kidney function? Hemodialysis patients



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Table 1 Daily urine volumes (V, ml)

Volume	Group A, contrast media n = 42			Group B, control n = 45		
↓ month	Median	Range	Quartile (25th–75th percentile)	Median	Range	Quartile (25th–75th percentile)
1	1500	500–4500	987–2000	1400	500–3500	1000–1750
2	1475	500–3220	987–2000	1200	500–2500	960–1500
3	1500	500–3800	937–2000	1100	500–2100	875–1500
4	1150	500–3500	850–1925	1000	500–2100	780–1575
5	1300	500–2420	700–1775	1000	500–2300	725–1400
6	1225	500–2100	737–1662	900	500–2400	700–1200

single center, prospective, controlled, not randomized
33x angioplasty, 6x thrombectomy, 3x angiography
ø 99 (60-180) ml iodixanol, no pre-hydration strategy
p = 0.855 (Kolmogorow-Smirnow)

Janousek *et al.*, Cardiovasc Intervent Radiol 2010

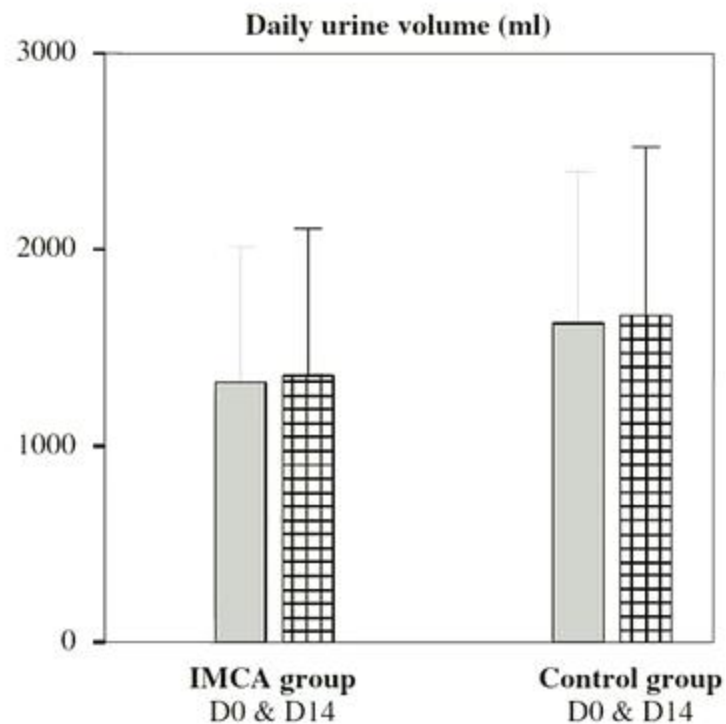


Does contrast reduce residual kidney function? Peritoneal dialysis patients



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single center, prospective, controlled
n = 36 with + 36 without contrast exposure
~ 50% diabetics
17x coronary, 10x peripheral angiography
4x abdominal, 5x aortic CT angiography
ø 104 ± 55 ml iodixanol
hydration with 1 l 0.9% NaCl i.v.

IMCA (typo) = ICMA = iodinated contrast media administration

Moranne *et al.*, Nephrol Dial Transpl 2006





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What do the societies say?



American College of Radiology ACR



CIN, contrast-induced nephropathy



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“CIN is a real, albeit rare, entity.”

“Failure to diagnose an important clinical entity carries its own risk.”

“The risk of clinically relevant renal dysfunction is very low in many situations. However, patients with AKI or severe chronic kidney disease are considered at risk for CIN.”



European Society of Urogenital Radiology ESUR



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“When properly corrected for the many other possible causes of AKI in patients with chronic kidney disease, the risk of CI-AKI [...] is low.”

van der Moolen *et al.*, Eur Radiol 2018

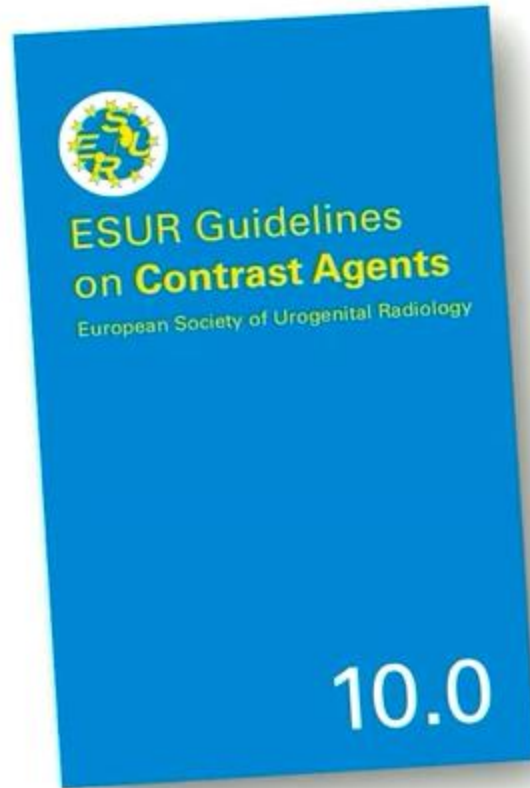


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“At-risk patients –
Consider an alternative imaging method
not using iodine-based contrast media.”

van der Moolen *et al.*, Eur Radiol 2018



Position statement of the German Society of Nephrology (DGfN) and the German Society of Cardiology (DGK) – July 2020



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“consider alternative diagnostic procedure if eGFR < 30”
“do not delay imaging in medical urgency or if the alternatives are not equivalent”

(translation by me)

Latus et al., Der Kardiologe 2020





But what happens if we just don't give CM?



“Renalism”



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“Renalism”: Inappropriately Low Rates of Coronary Angiography in Elderly Individuals with Renal Insufficiency

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^{||}Maine

Abstract: Higher risk patients (including the elderly) receive more conservative therapy for cardiovascular diseases, even though the relative benefits of therapy tend to be greater. The perceived risk of radiocontrast-associated nephrotoxicity may influence the provision of coronary angiography and subsequent revascularization, especially among individuals with chronic kidney disease (CKD). The aim of this study was to determine whether there is excessive variation in the provision of coronary angiography after acute myocardial infarction on the basis of the presence of CKD and whether there is an association between angiography and mortality. Elderly (age 65 to 80 years) individuals with acute myocardial infarction from the Cooperative Cardiovascular Project were identified by the presence or absence of CKD (defined as a baseline serum creatinine of 1.5 to 5.0 mg/dL). In CKD patients, the propensity to undergo coronary angiography was determined and the effect of coronary angiography on mortality was estimated using multivariable logistic regression and stratification. Mortality was significantly higher with CKD (52.6 versus 26.4%); fewer patients with CKD underwent coronary angiography (25.2 versus 46.8%), despite the observation that a similar proportion of patients were deemed appropriate for angiography by standard, published criteria. When limiting the analysis to CKD patients who are considered appropriate, the multivariable estimate of the odds of death associated with coronary angiography was 0.58 (95% confidence interval, 0.50 to 0.67). With adjustment using propensity scores, the odds ratio over the entire cohort was 0.62 (95% confidence interval, 0.54 to 0.70). Results were qualitatively similar when patients were stratified by CKD stage IV (estimated GFR < 30 mL/min per 1.73 m²). There is a large relative decrease in utilization of coronary angiography among patients with CKD. Alteration in practice because of an aversion to the risk of radiocontrast-associated nephrotoxicity (“renalism”) is inappropriate, even if the true relative benefit of angiographic strategies is a fraction of what is estimated here.

Variation in the rates of major procedures such as coronary angiography has been well described (1,2). Initial studies by Wennberg et al. (3-5) highlighted regional variations in angiography and revascularization rates, noting that variation was more likely when there was uncertainty in the optimal therapeutic approach and when several alternative treatment strategies were available. More recently, attention has been paid to disparities in procedure use by gender and race. Women and black individuals are less likely to undergo coronary angiography and bypass surgery (6-8) than men and white individuals. Black individuals are less likely to receive thrombolytic therapy after myocardial infarction (MI) (9), more likely to have amputation rather than revascularization surgery for peripheral vascular disease (10), and less likely to be referred for

kidney transplantation (11,12). Older individuals may also receive less aggressive therapy for several conditions, prompting consideration of “ageism” (13,14). Although we cannot absolutely determine whether these disparities reflect underuse in women, black individuals, and the elderly or overuse in men, white individuals, and younger individuals, many have expressed concern that variation in procedure rates indicates bias that should be eliminated in the interest of optimizing medical care.

Fewer studies have examined how cardiac procedure rates vary by the presence or absence of coexisting medical conditions (15-17). In general, despite the higher risk patients tend to receive greater relative benefits from a variety of interventions in cardiovascular diseases, higher risk patients (including the elderly) tend to be treated more conservatively, perhaps because of their own or their physicians’ aversion to risk. The presence of one such condition, chronic kidney disease (CKD), influences the use of angiography as a result, in part, of the fear of inducing nephrotoxicity caused by contrast media. We hypothesized that the presence of CKD in elderly patients would be associated with relative underuse of coronary angiography after MI (a bias we have termed “renalism”). Moreover, we hypothesized that a strategy that includes coronary angiography for patients with CKD would be associated with an

Renalism: “alteration in practice because of an aversion to the risk of radiocontrast-associated nephrotoxicity”

is inappropriate.

Chertow et al., J Am Soc Nephrol 2004

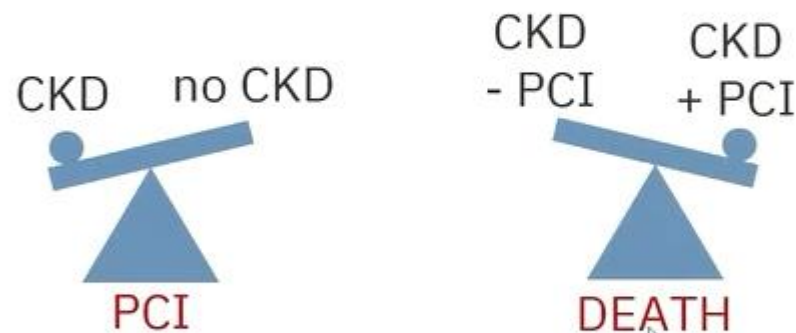


“Renalism” in 2021



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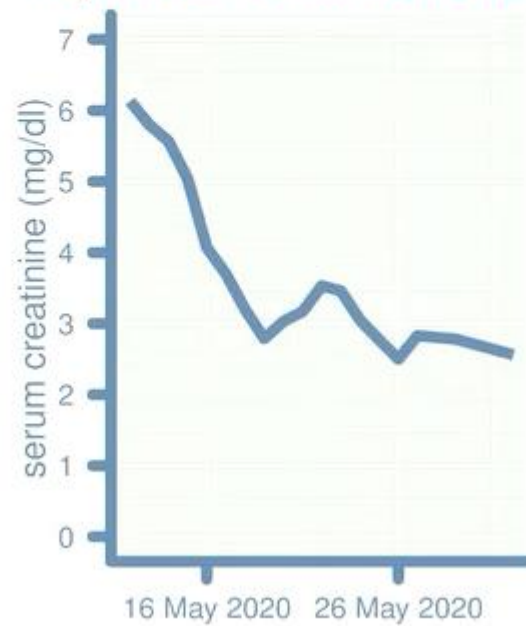
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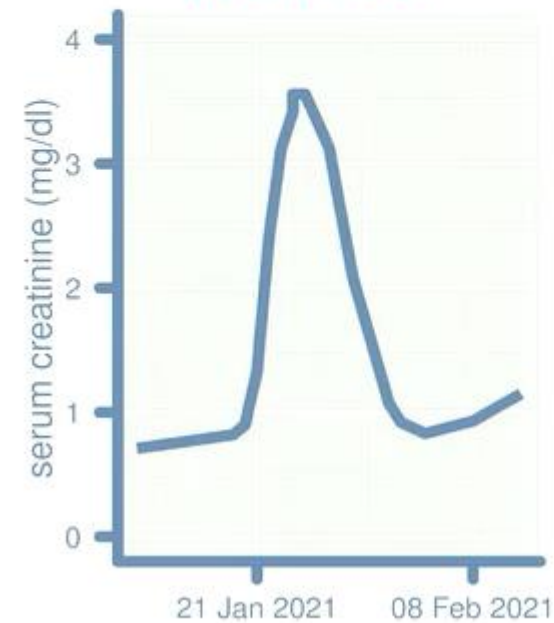
Panchal et al., Am J Cardiol 2021 (May 15)



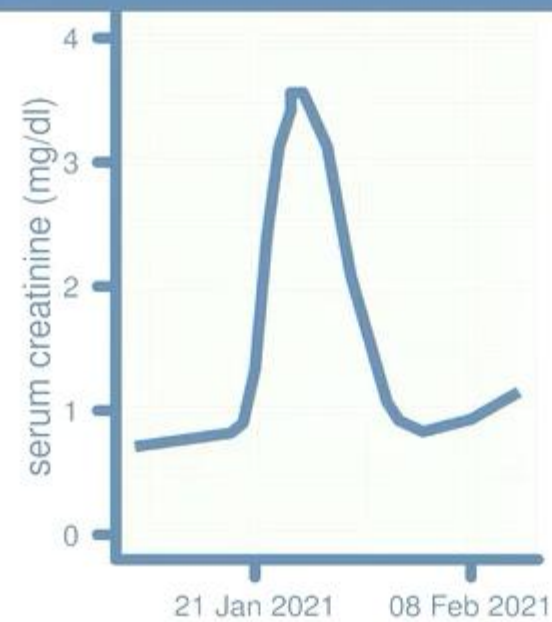
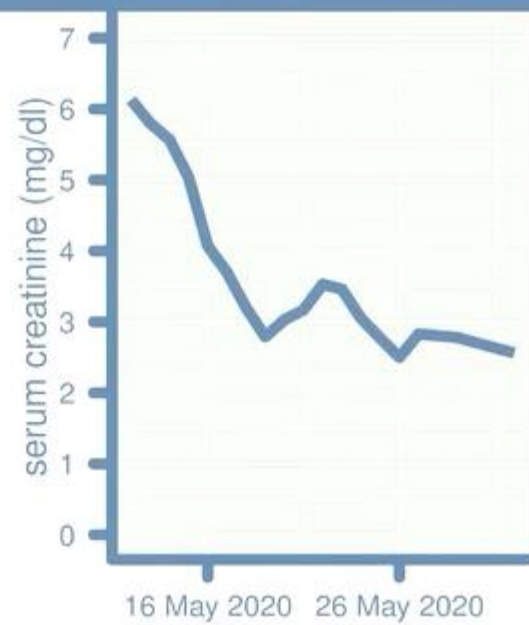
“high risk” for PC-AKI
intraarterial contrast
improved renal function



low risk for PC-AKI
3x intravenous contrast
severe AKI



it's not *deterministic*
it's *idiosyncratic*



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THE CARE OF THE PATIENT*

FRANCIS W. PEABODY, M.D.
MOTOR

It is probably fortunate that systems of education are constantly under the fire of general criticism, for if education were left solely in the hands of teachers the chances are good that it would soon deteriorate. Medical education, however, is less likely to suffer from such stagnation, for whenever the lay public stops praising the type of modern doctor, the medical profession itself may be counted on to stir up the stagnant pool and cleanse it of its sedimentary deposit. The most common criticism made at present by older practitioners is that young graduates have been taught a great deal about the mechanism of disease, but very little about the practice of medicine—or, to put it more bluntly, they are too "scientific" and do not know how to take care of patients.

One is, of course, somewhat tempted to question how completely fitted for his life work the practitioner of the older generation was when he first entered on it, and how much the haste of time has led him to confuse and what he learned in the harder school of experience. But he acquired in a serious one and it is conceded in the numerous recent graduates they encounter many similar conditions which they had not been led to anticipate. Where there is so much smoke, there is undoubtedly a good deal of fire, and the problem for teachers and for students is to consider what they can do to extinguish whatever is left of this smoldering disaster.

To begin with, the fact must be accepted that one cannot expect to become a skilful practitioner of medicine in the four or five years allotted to the medical course in the profession. It is an ever widening field of knowledge. It is an ever widening field of experience. It is an ever widening field of contact with the sick. All that the medical school can hope to do is to supply the foundations on which to build. When one considers the amazing progress of science in its relation to medicine during the last thirty years, and the enormous mass of scientific material which must be made available to the modern physician, it is not surprising that the schools have tended to concern themselves more and more with the phase of the educational problem. And while they have been absorbed in the difficult task of digesting and correlating new knowledge, it has been easy to overlook the fact that the application of the principles of

science to the diagnosis and treatment of disease is the only one limited aspect of medical practice. The practice of medicine in its broadest sense includes the whole relationship of the physician with his patient. It is an art, based to an increasing extent on the medical sciences, but comprising much that still remains outside the realm of any science. The art of medicine and the science of medicine are not antagonistic but supplementary to each other. There is no more contradiction between the science of medicine and the art of medicine than between the science of aerostatics and the art of flying. Good practice presupposes an understanding of the sciences which contribute to the structure of modern medicine, but it is obvious that sound professional training should include a much broader equipment.

The problem that I wish to consider, therefore, is whether this larger view of the conditions imposed by the approach of the medical school. Can the present curriculum of the medical school, the trunk of the foundation's art be grafted on the main trunk of the foundation's art in such a way that there shall arise a symmetrical growth, like an expanding tree, the leaves of which may be for the "healing of the nations?"

One who speaks of the care of patients is naturally thinking about circumstances as they exist in the practice of medicine; but the teacher who is attempting to train medical students is immediately confronted by the fact that, even if he would, he cannot make the conditions under which he has to teach clinical medicine exactly similar to those of actual practice.

The primary difficulty is that instruction has to be carried out largely in the wards and dispensary of the hospital, rather than in the patient's home and the physician's office. Now the essence of the practice of medicine is that it is an intensely personal matter, and one of the chief differences between private practice and hospital practice is that the latter always tends to become impersonal. At first sight this may not appear to be a very vital point, but it is, as a matter of fact, the crux of the whole situation. The treatment of a disease may be entirely impersonal; the care of a patient must be completely personal. The significance of the intimate personal relationship between physician and patient cannot be too strongly emphasized, for in an extraordinary large number of cases both diagnosis and treatment are directly dependent on it, and the failure of the young physician to establish this relationship accounts for much of his ineffectiveness in the care of patients.

INSTRUCTION IN TREATMENT OF DISEASE

Hospitals, like other institutions founded with the highest human ideals, are apt to deteriorate into debased machines, and even the physician who has the patient's welfare most at heart finds that pressure of

“ the secret of
the care of the patient
is in caring for the patient ”

— Francis W. Peabody, 1927



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