

# Role of genetics in renal diagnosis - Genetic renal diseases

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# Genetic renal diseases – The journey begins

## GLOMERULUS

- Congenital steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome
- Alport syndrome
- Mitochondrial disorders with steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome
- Frasier's syndrome, Denys-Drash syndrome
- Fabry's disease
- Wilms' tumor, aniridia, genitourinary abnormalities and mental retardation (WAGR) syndrome
- Pierson's syndrome
- Nail-patella syndrome
- Schimke immuno-osseous dystrophy

## THICK ASCENDING LIMB and DISTAL CONVOLUTED TUBULE

- Bartter's syndrome
- Gitelman's syndrome
- Polycystic kidney disease
- Familial hypocalciuric hypercalcemia
- Neonatal severe hyperparathyroidism
- Autosomal dominant hypocalcemia
- Gordon's syndrome
- EAST syndrome
- Hypomagnesemia, type 1-6
- Familial juvenile hyperuricemic nephropathy

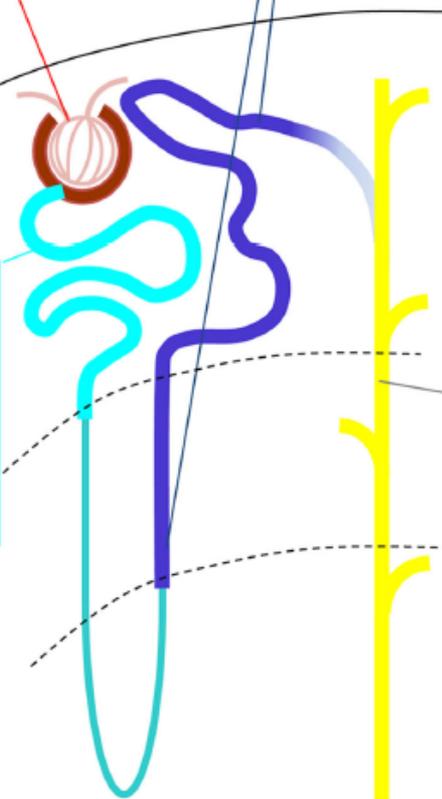
PKD,  
ADTKD,  
Nephro-  
nophthisis

## PROXIMAL TUBULE

- Polycystic kidney disease
- Primary renal Fanconi's syndrome
- Proximal renal tubular acidosis
- Fanconi-Bickel syndrome
- Lowe syndrome
- Cystinuria, type 1-3
- Hereditary renal hypouricemia
- Dent's disease

## COLLECTING DUCT

- Polycystic kidney disease
- Liddle's syndrome
- Distal renal tubular acidosis
- Pseudohypoaldosteronism type 1
- Nephrogenic diabetes insipidus, type 1 and 2



# Role of genetics in renal diagnosis-

## Genetic renal disease

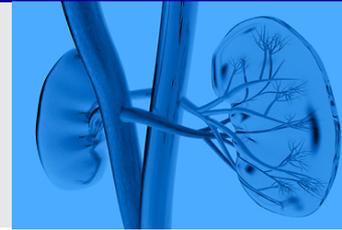


- **Congenital steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome (CNS):**  
NPHS1, NPHS2, TRPC6, ACTN4, INF2, WT-1
- **Collagen type IV associated diseases**  
(thin basement GN, Alport`s disease)
- **Polycystic kidney disease (PKD):**  
Autosomal dominant and recessive polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD, ARPKD)
- **Autosomal dominant and recessive tubulointerstitial kidney disease** (ADTKD, nephronophthisis)



# Role of genetics in renal diagnosis-

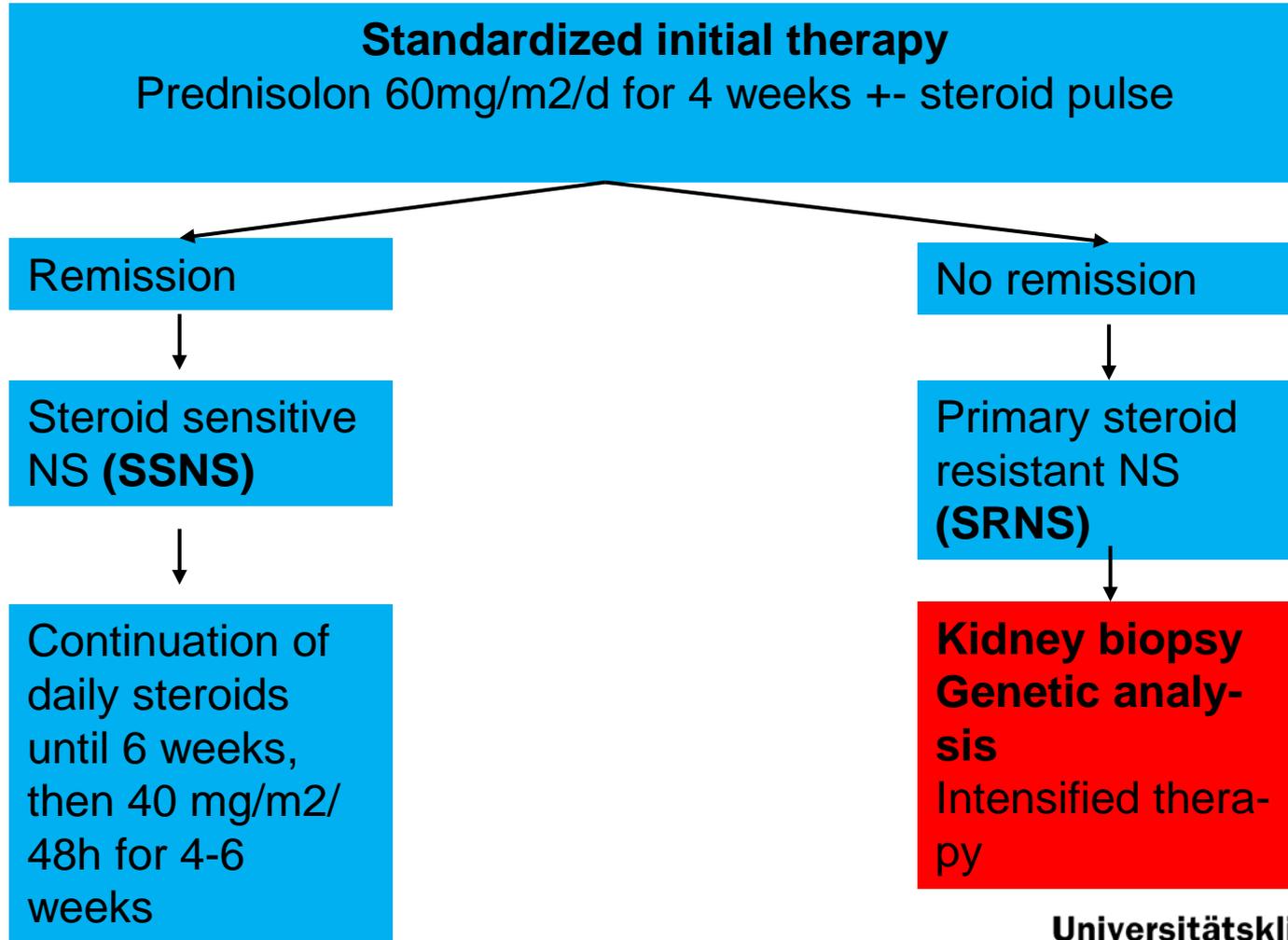
## Genetic renal disease



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# Standardized approach to nephrotic syndrome (NS) in newborns and children

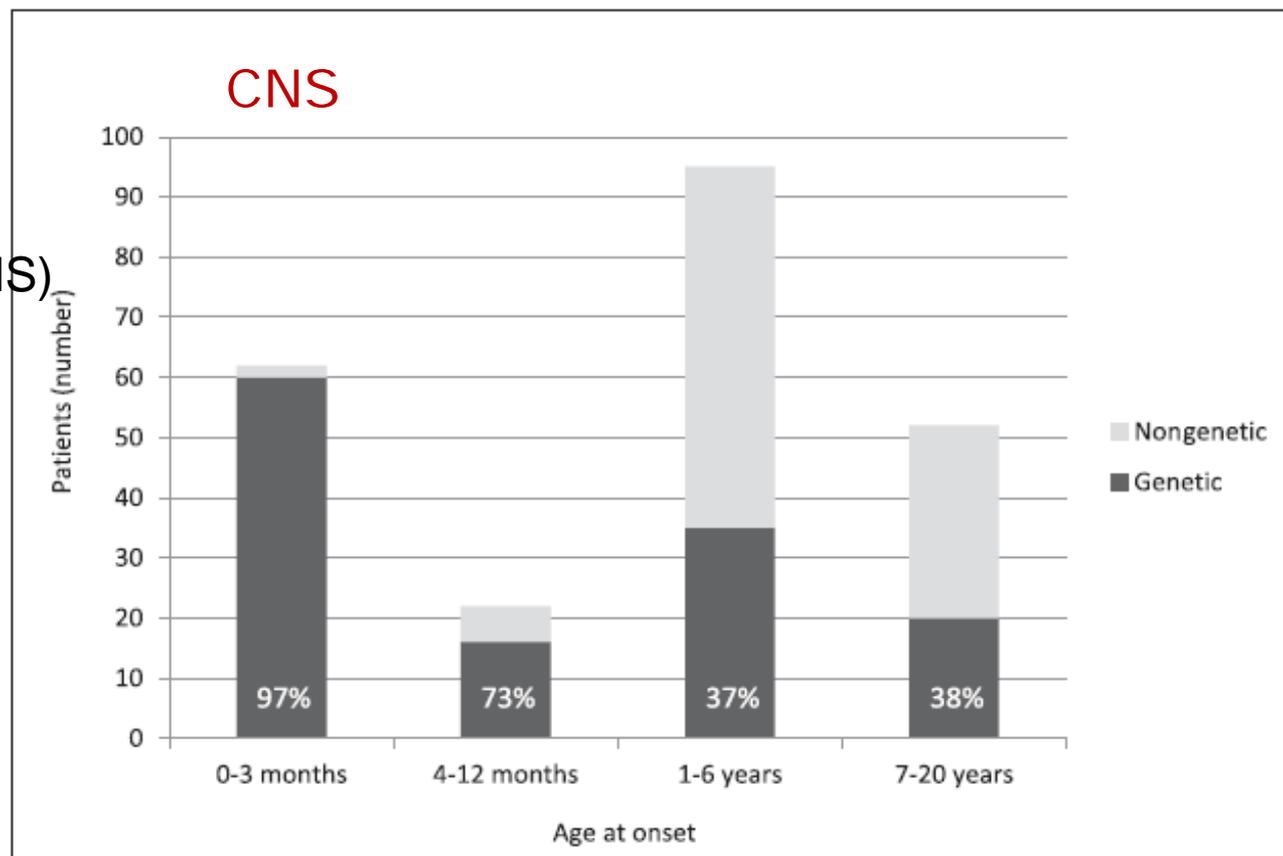


# Rapid Response to Cyclosporin A and Favorable Renal Outcome in Nongenetic Versus Genetic Steroid-Resistant Nephrotic Syndrome

Anja K. Büscher,\* Bodo B. Beck,<sup>†</sup> Anette Melk,<sup>‡</sup> Julia Hoefele,<sup>§</sup> Birgitta Kranz,<sup>||</sup> Daniel Bamborschke,<sup>†</sup> Sabrina Baig,<sup>‡</sup> Bärbel Lange-Sperandio,<sup>¶</sup> Theresa Jungraithmayr,\*\* Lutz T. Weber,<sup>††</sup> Markus J. Kemper,<sup>‡‡</sup> Burkhard Tönshoff,<sup>§§</sup> Peter F. Hoyer,\* Martin Konrad,<sup>||</sup> and Stefanie Weber\* for the German Pediatric Nephrology Association (GPN)

231 patients with CNS/  
SRNS

57% with genetic disease  
(97% in CNS, 14% in SRNS)



# Renal Biopsy in CNS and SRNS

## ■ Nongenetic disease:

- 23% MCN
- 69% FSGS

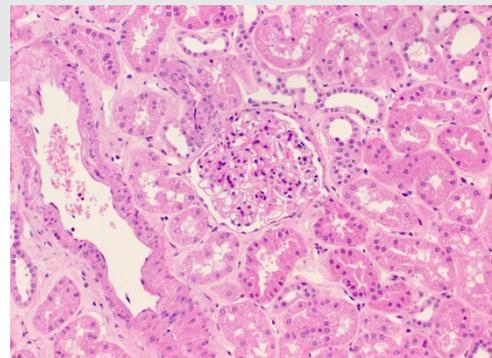
## ■ Genetic disease (CNS vs SRNS):

- 21% and 66% **FSGS**
- 40% and 14 % **DMS** (→ suspicious for genetic origin)

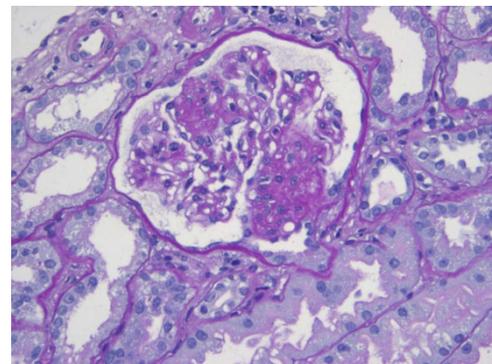
- In patients with FSGS and MCN the prognostic value of renal histology is limited

→ genetic testing:

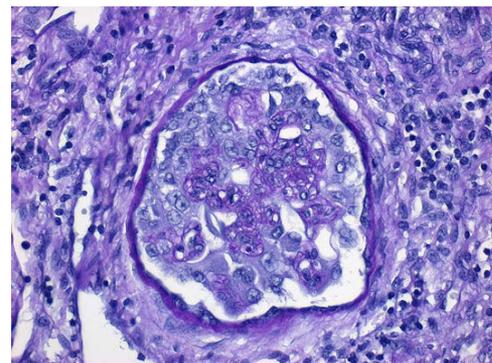
- genetic forms of FSGS are often resistant to steroid treatment
- genetic forms of FSGS carry a low risk of recurrence after renal tx



MCN



FSGS



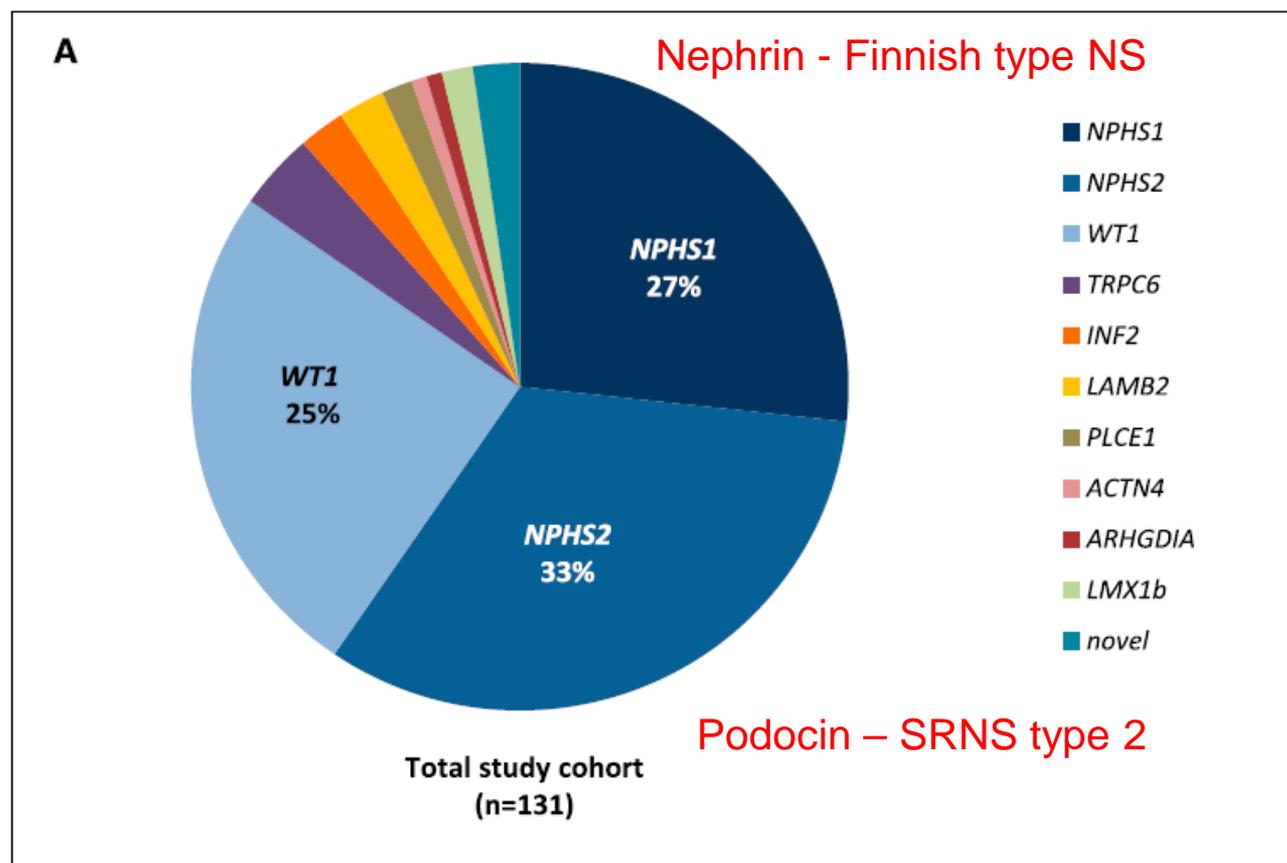
DMS

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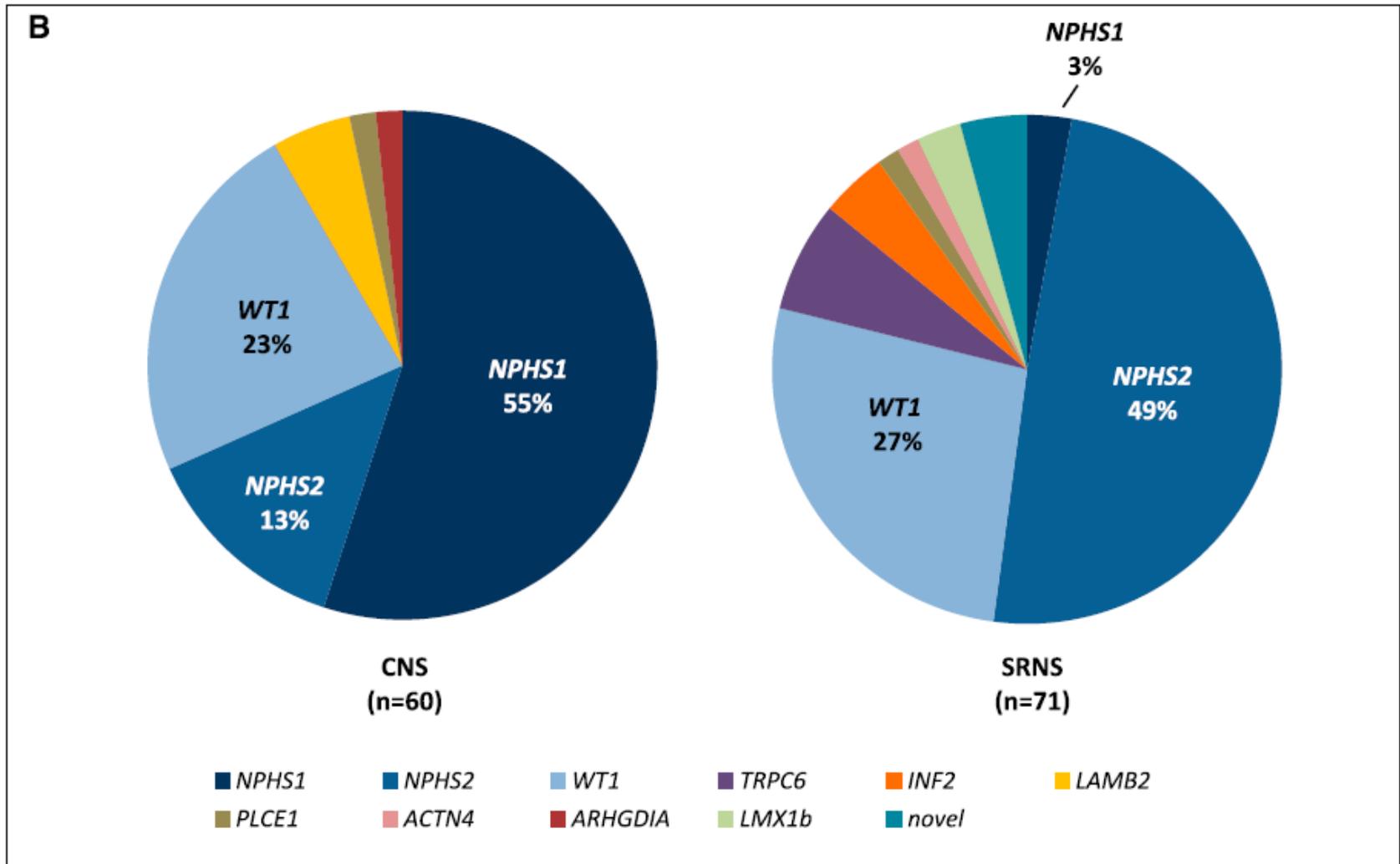
Anja K. Büscher,<sup>\*</sup> Bodo B. Beck,<sup>†</sup> Anette Melk,<sup>‡</sup> Julia Hoefele,<sup>§</sup> Birgitta Kranz,<sup>||</sup> Daniel Bamborschke,<sup>†</sup> Sabrina Baig,<sup>‡</sup> Bärbel Lange-Sperandio,<sup>¶</sup> Theresa Jungraithmayr,<sup>\*\*</sup> Lutz T. Weber,<sup>††</sup> Markus J. Kemper,<sup>‡‡</sup> Burkhard Tönshoff,<sup>§§</sup> Peter F. Hoyer,<sup>\*</sup> Martin Konrad,<sup>||</sup> and Stefanie Weber<sup>\*</sup> for the German Pediatric Nephrology Association (GPN)

- 50 different genes causing FSGS
- 3 major genes cover 85%

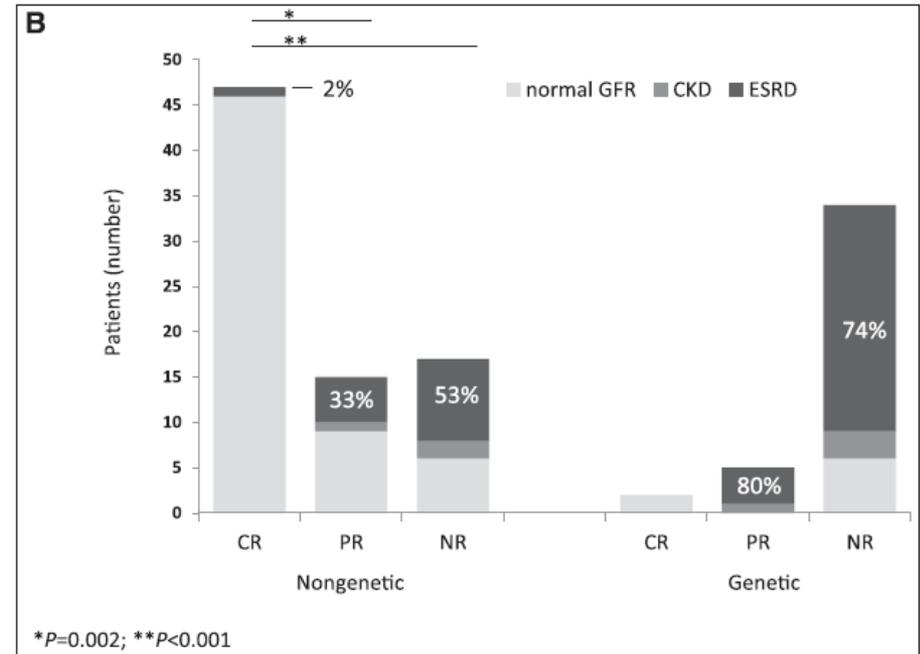
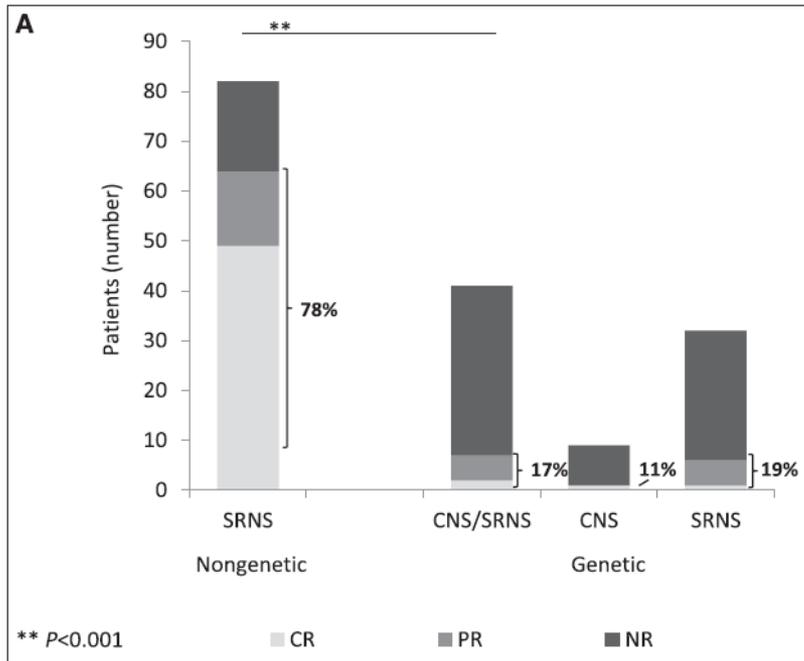
WT1 → DMS (Denys-Drash) FSGS (Frasier) +-nephroblastoma



# Congenital nephrotic syndrome (CNS) versus Steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome (SRNS)



# Response to cyclosporin A (CsA) treatment (A) and renal outcome (B) in either nongenetic or genetic disease



→ Genetic diseases respond differentially:

- sig. lower rate of complete remission (CR)
- sig. higher rate of ESRD

# Role of genetics in renal diagnosis-

## Genetic renal disease

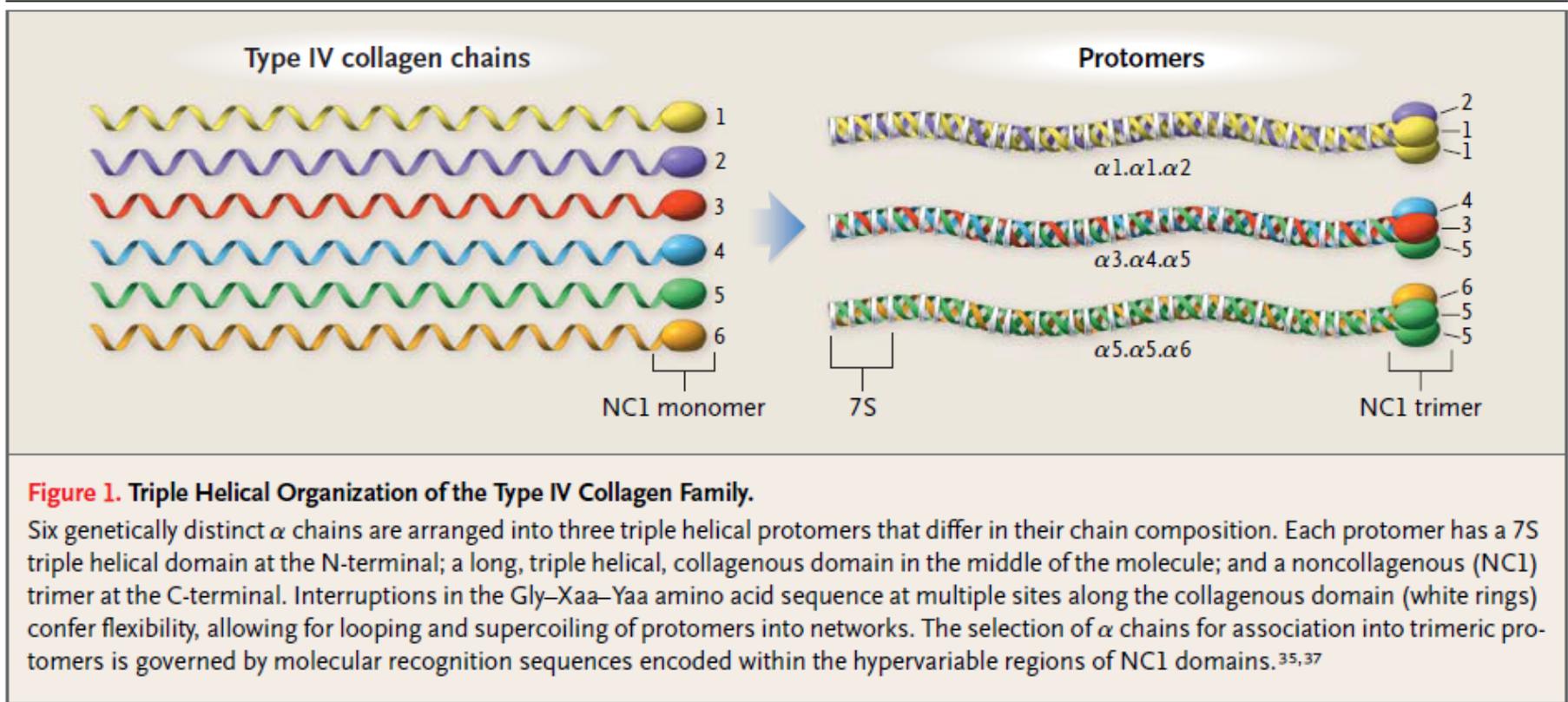


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# Alport's Syndrome, Goodpasture's Syndrome, and Type IV Collagen

Billy G. Hudson, Ph.D., Karl Tryggvason, M.D., Ph.D.,  
Munirathinam Sundaramoorthy, Ph.D., and Eric G. Neilson, M.D.



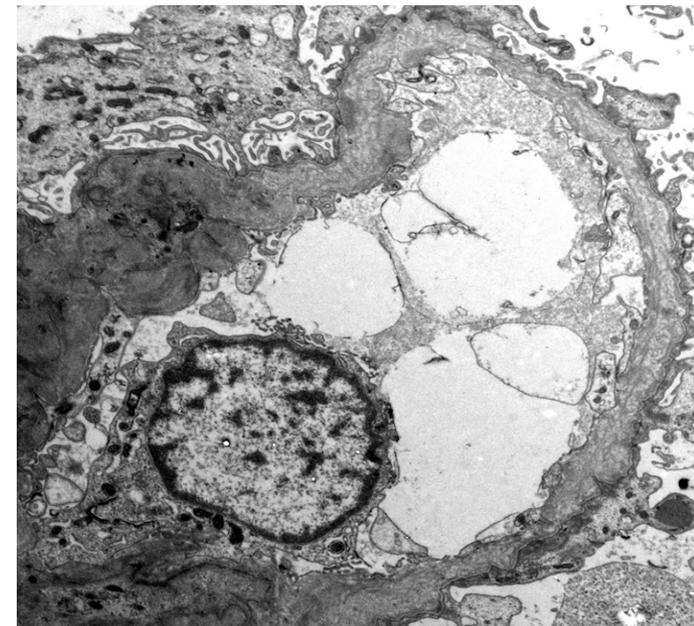
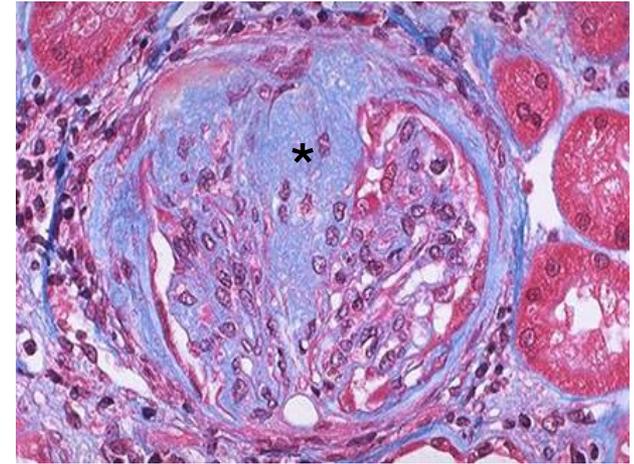
1927: first description by Cecil Alport

(NEJM 2003)

# Clinical pathophysiology of Alport's syndrome

**Table 1. Clinical Pathophysiology of Alport's and Goodpasture's Syndromes.**

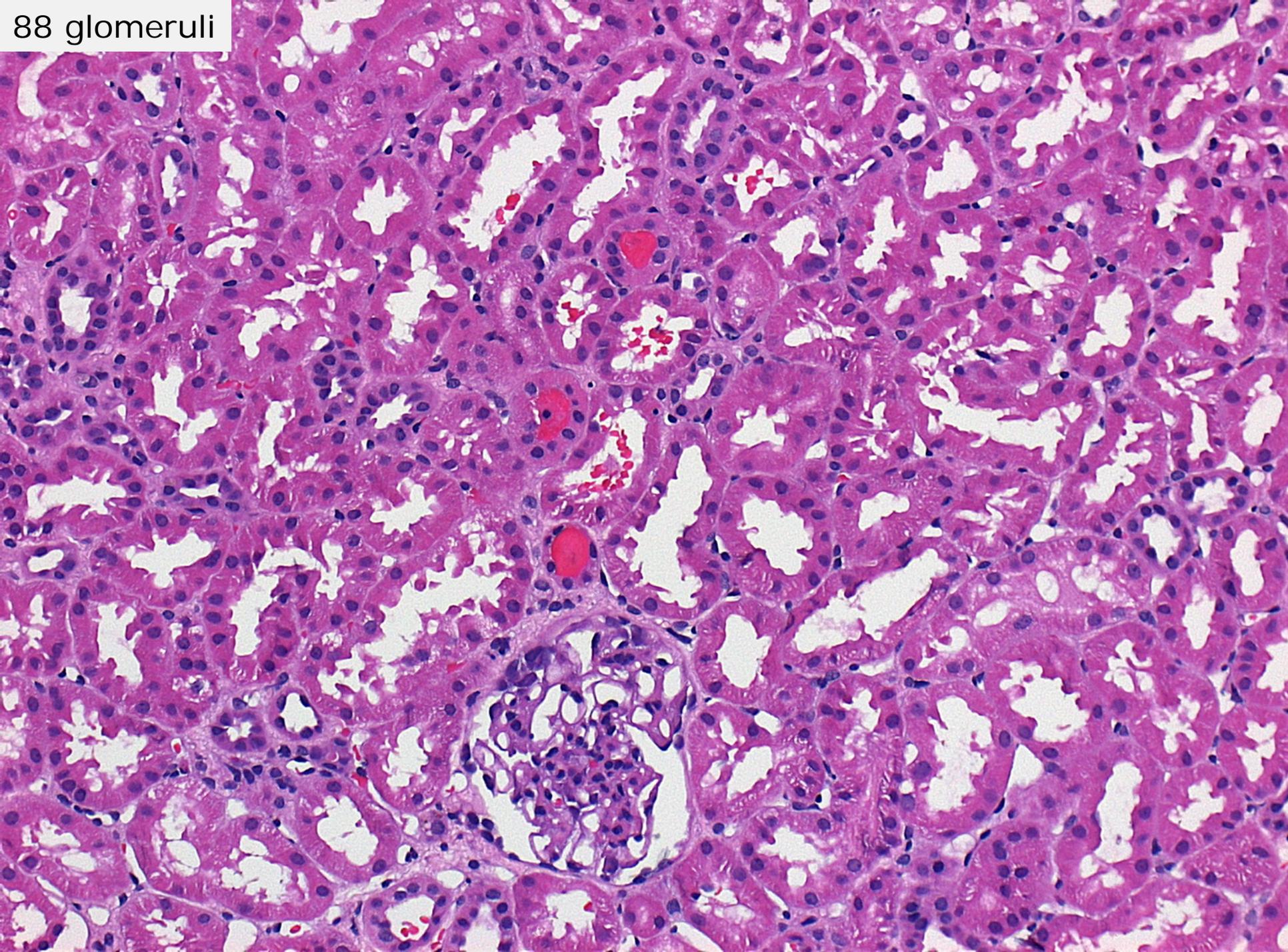
Disease	Mechanism	Clinical Description
<b>Alport's syndromes</b>		
X-linked		
Adult	Some missense mutations or splice variants in the <i>COL4A5</i> gene, producing a reduction or distortion in $\alpha3.\alpha4.\alpha5$ (IV) and $\alpha5.\alpha5.\alpha6$ (IV) networks	Delayed onset of renal failure (>30 yr of age), with mild deafness in men; less severe in female carriers
Juvenile	Deletions, nonsense mutations, or missense mutations in the <i>COL4A5</i> gene, producing a loss of $\alpha3.\alpha4.\alpha5$ (IV) and $\alpha5.\alpha5.\alpha6$ (IV) networks	Early onset of renal failure (<30 yr of age) in men, with frank deafness and often lenticonus
Leiomyomatosis	Deletions from the <i>COL4A5</i> gene through to the second exon of the <i>COL4A6</i> gene, producing a loss of $\alpha3.\alpha4.\alpha5$ (IV) and $\alpha5.\alpha5.\alpha6$ (IV) networks and smooth-muscle tumors	Early onset of renal failure, with esophageal dysfunction, genital leiomyomas, and occasional posterior cataract
Recessive	Homozygous or compound heterozygous nonsense mutations, missense mutations, frame shifts, small deletions, or splice variants in <i>COL4A3</i> or <i>COL4A4</i> gene, producing a loss of the $\alpha3.\alpha4.\alpha5$ (IV) network	Early onset of renal failure (<30 yr of age) in both sexes
Dominant	Missense mutation in the <i>COL4A4</i> gene; splice variants or short in-frame deletions of the collagenous region; or shortened signal-peptide sequences in the <i>COL4A3</i> gene; defects produce aberrations in the $\alpha3.\alpha4.\alpha5$ (IV) network	Renal failure of varying severity
Benign familial hematuria	Missense mutations in the <i>COL4A3</i> gene or splice variants, frame shifts, or missense mutations in the <i>COL4A4</i> gene, inherited in an autosomal dominant fashion, producing a subtle decrease in the $\alpha3.\alpha4.\alpha5$ (IV) network	Mild hematuria with thin basement membranes and rare hypertension or proteinuria that is nonprogressive; findings on kidney biopsy have been relatively normal
Nail-patella syndrome	Autosomal dominant mutation in the <i>LMX1B</i> transcription factor, which regulates the <i>COL4A3</i> or <i>COL4A4</i> gene as well as the genes encoding nephrin, podocin, and <i>CD2</i> -associated protein	Variable penetrance, but some children have nephrotic syndrome and skeletal and nail dysplasias

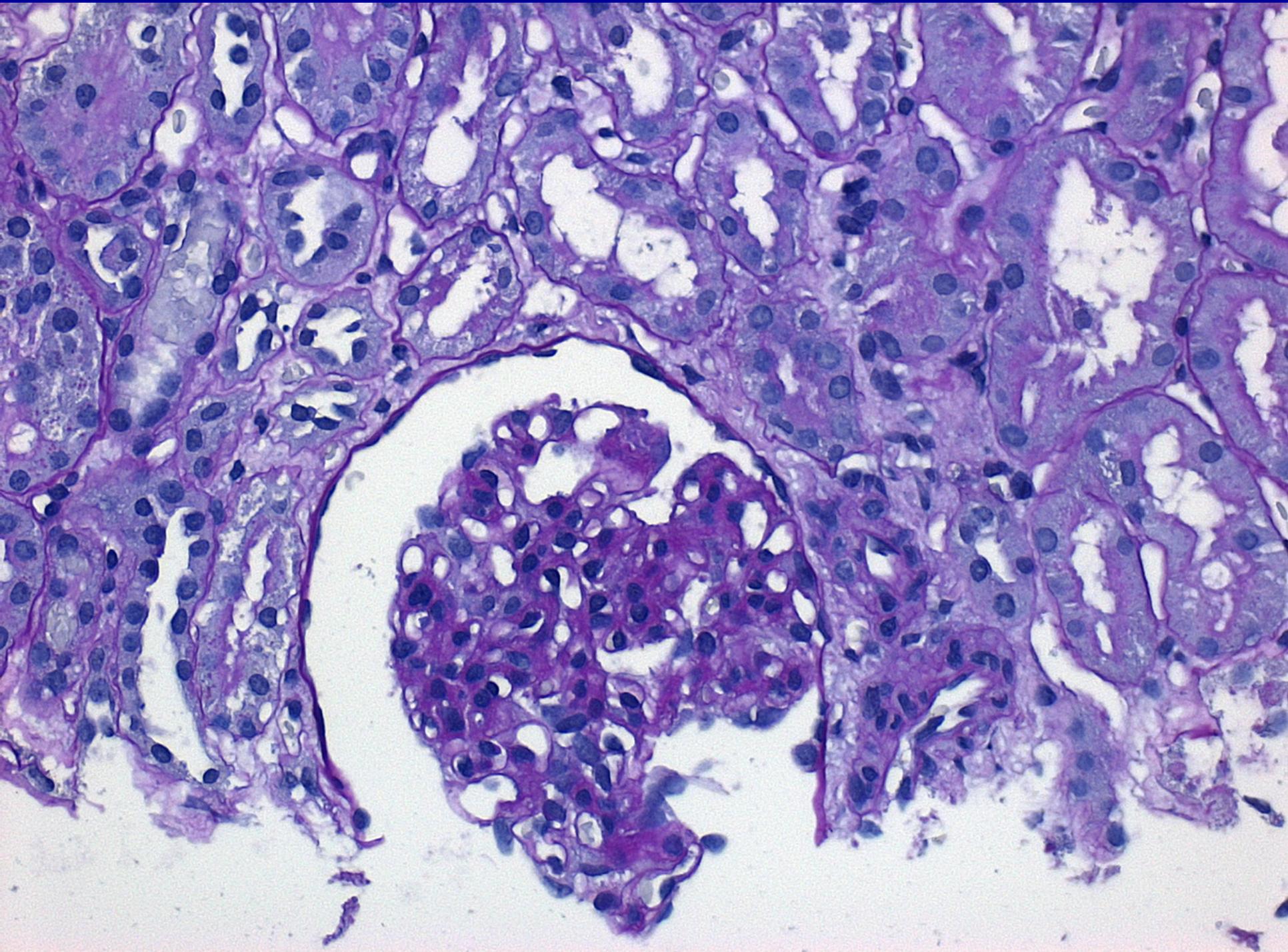


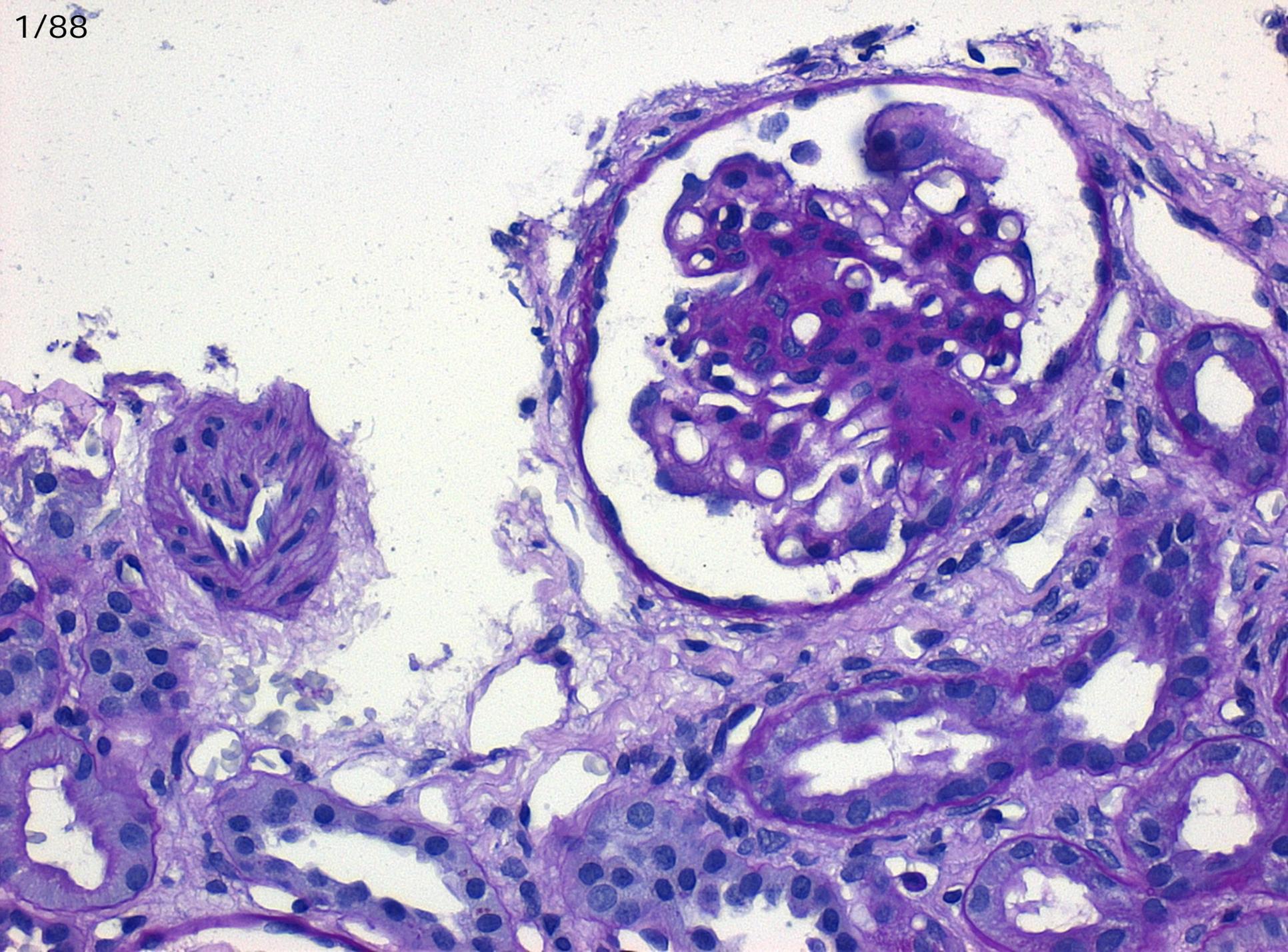
# The interesting case



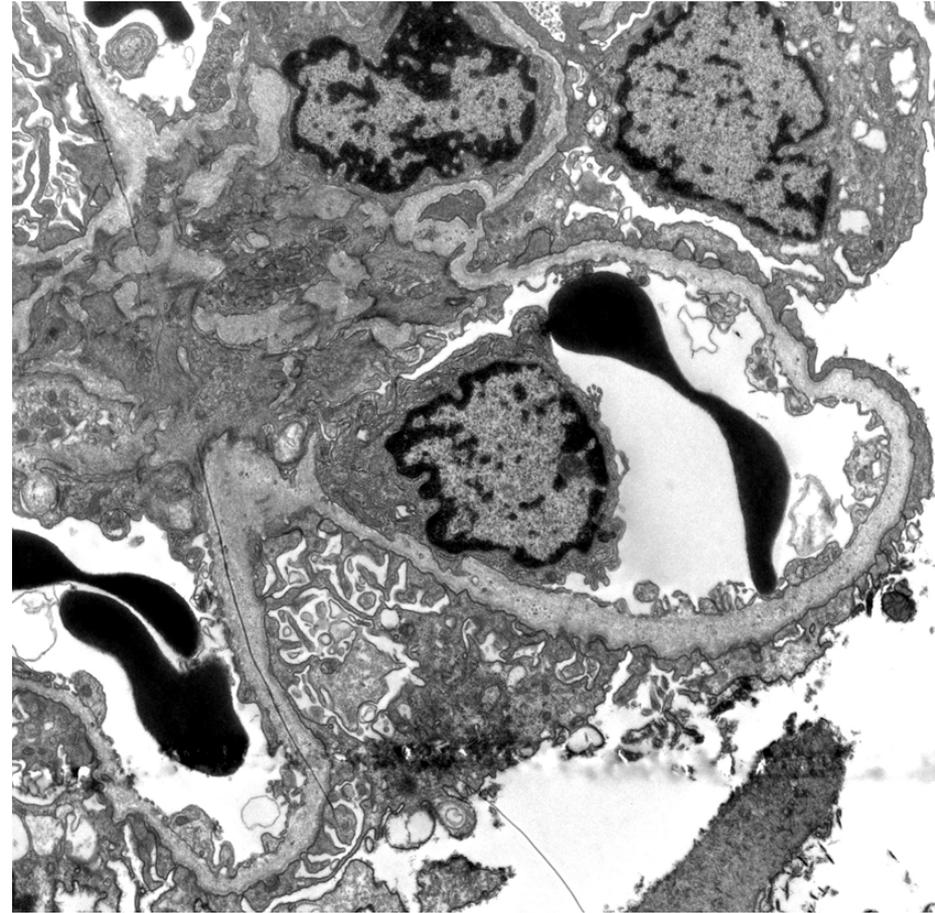
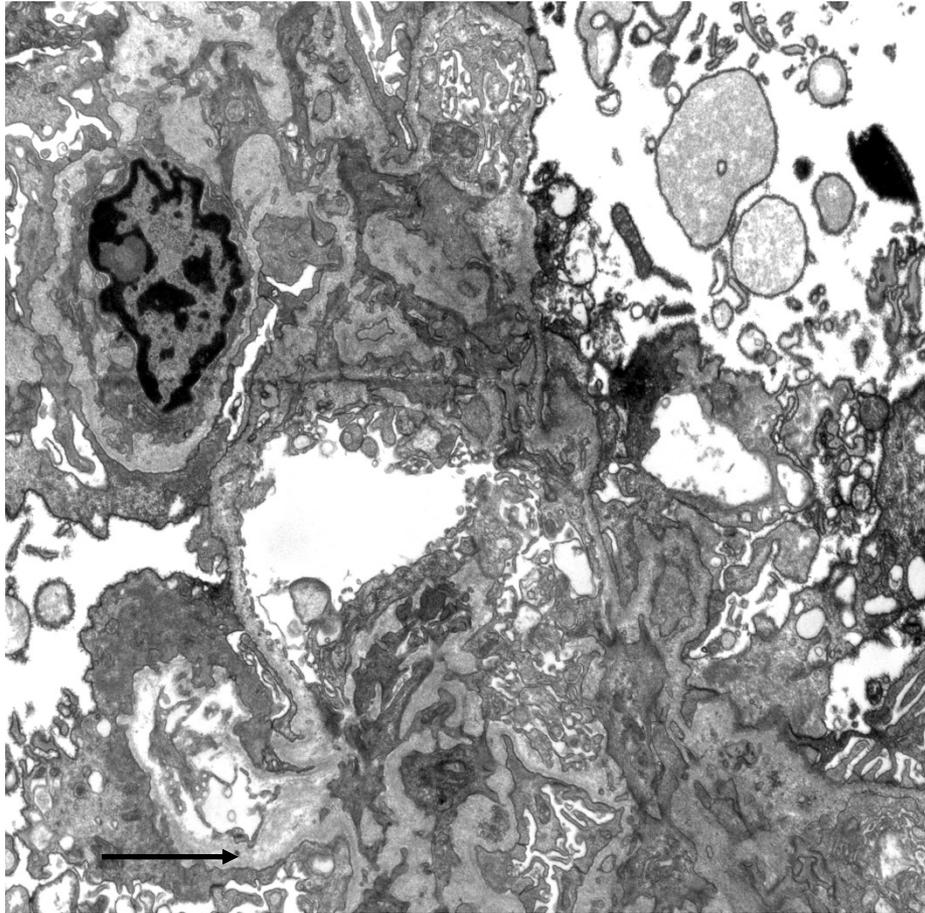
88 glomeruli







# Electron microscopy



# Diagnosis

- Global (2/88) and focal-segmental (1/88) glomerulosclerosis

- EM:

glomerular basement thickness 135-889  $\mu\text{m}$

structural alterations: lamellation and splicing

→ despite negative genetics highly suggestive for Alports disease (DD: MYH9-defect)

- **Additional information:**

genetic testing was performed 11 ys ago and was now repeated yielding a novel disease causing mutation in COL4A5....



# Identification of 47 novel mutations in patients with Alport syndrome and thin basement membrane nephropathy

Stefanie Weber<sup>1</sup> • Katja Strasser<sup>1</sup> • Sabine Rath<sup>2</sup> • Achim Kittke<sup>2</sup> • Sonja Beicht<sup>2</sup> • Martin Alberer<sup>3</sup> • Bärbel Lange-Sperandio<sup>4</sup> • Peter F. Hoyer<sup>1</sup> • Marcus R. Benz<sup>5</sup> • Sabine Ponsel<sup>4</sup> • Lutz T. Weber<sup>5</sup> • Hanns-Georg Klein<sup>2</sup> • Julia Hoefele<sup>2,6</sup>

**Table 4** Summary of different *COL4A3*, *COL4A4*, and *COL4A5* mutations found in this study

Type of mutation	<i>COL4A3</i>	<i>COL4A4</i>	<i>COL4A5</i>
Missense			
Glycine mutation	13	6	15
Other mutation	4	2	5
Nonsense	1	2	1
Silent	1	0	2
Splice site	0	0	11
Small insertion	0	2	3
Small deletion	2	3	3
Gross insertion	0	0	2
Gross deletion	0	0	1
Total	21	15	43

Gene	ARUP®	HGMD®	LOVD	Novel (identified in this study)	Percentage added (ARUP®/HGMD®/LOVD)
<i>COL4A3</i>	–	156	266	16	-/10/6
<i>COL4A4</i>	–	115	268	5	-/4/2
<i>COL4A5</i>	771	814	1168	26	3/3/2

Data are presented as the number of mutations, unless indicated otherwise

<sup>a</sup> Novel mutations (those found in this study) were compared with databases recording mutations causing Alport syndrome (ATS) and thin basement membrane nephropathy (TBMN): ARUP® (ARUP® Laboratories), HGMD® (Human Gene Mutation Database, professional release 2015.1, Cardiff, UK), and LOVD (Leiden Open Variation Database, last update December 2013, Leiden, The Netherlands)

→ genetic (re-)testing important to confirm morphological findings

# Role of genetics in renal diagnosis-

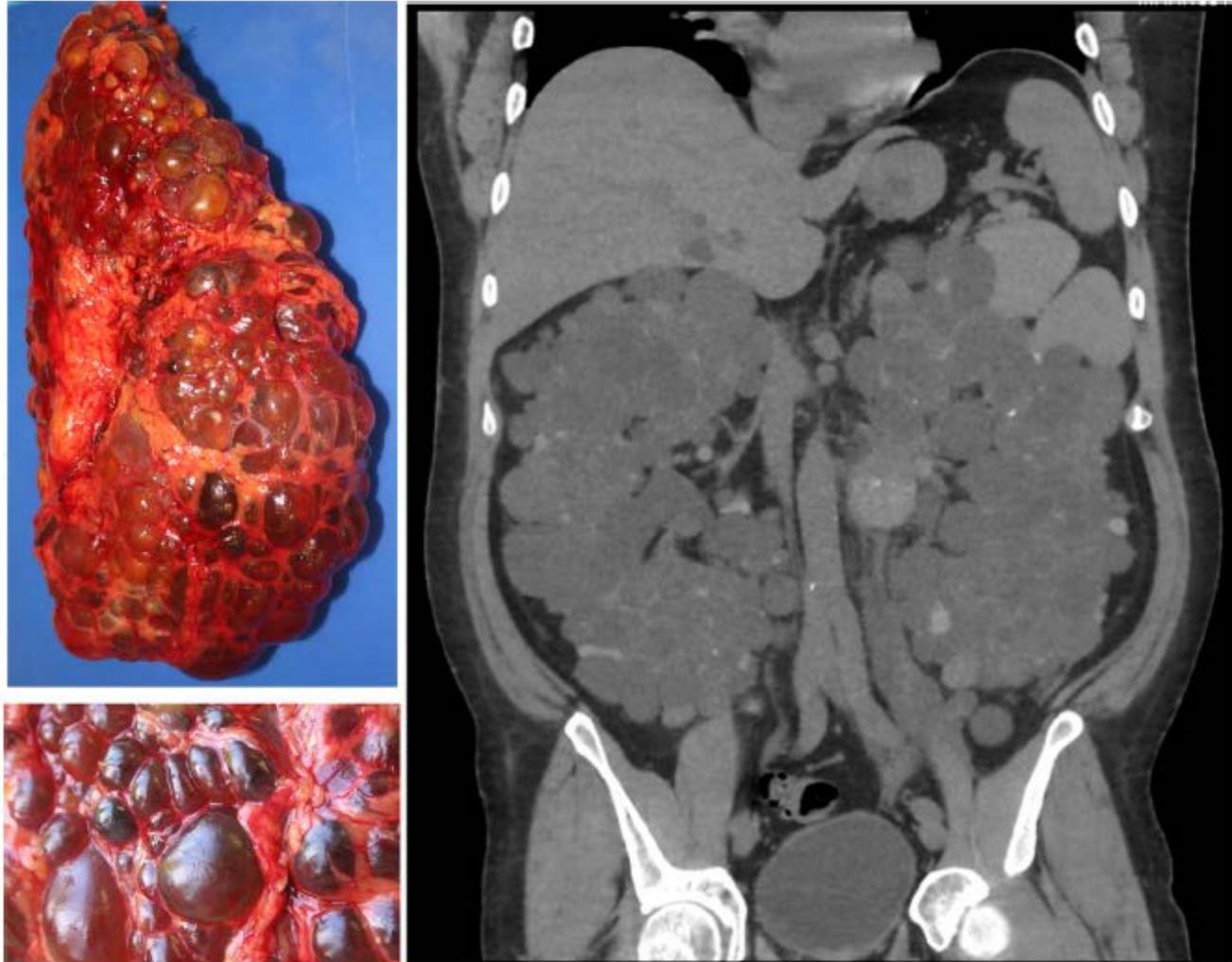
## Genetic renal disease



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# ADPKD – positive family history + presence of renal cysts on kidney imaging



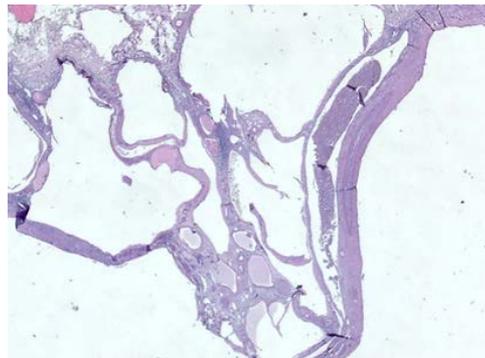
Erlangen

(Rangan et al. 2015)

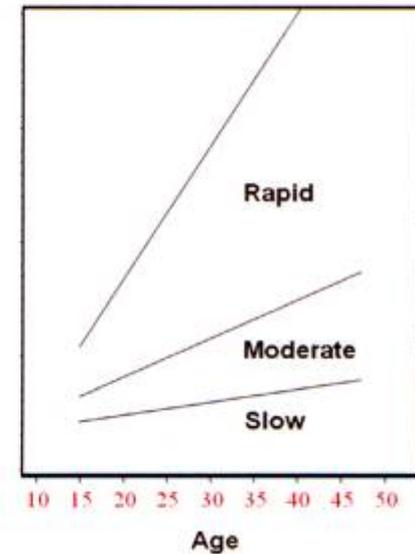
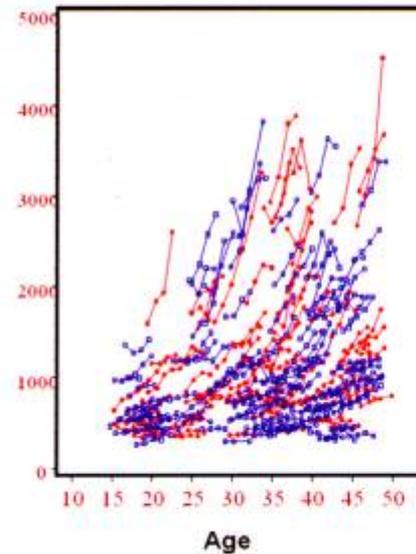
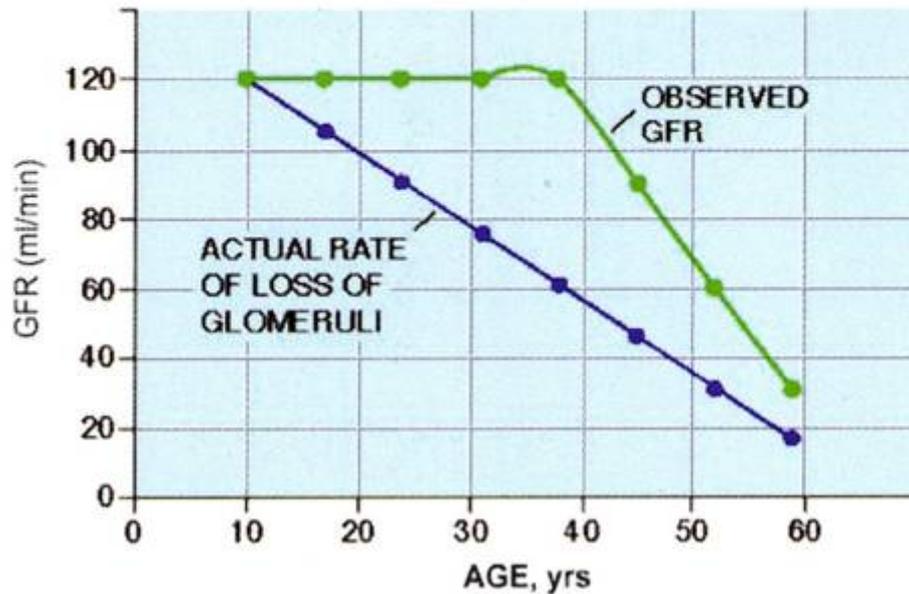
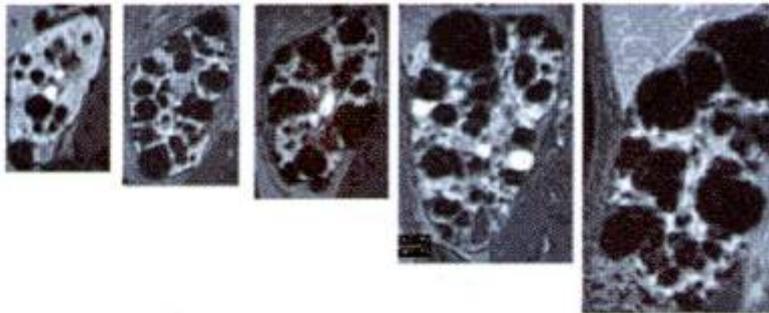


# Autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD)

- **most common monogenic (inherited) kidney disease** in Western countries (prevalence: 2.4/10,000 - 3.9/10,000) that accounts for 5-10% of ESRD in developed countries
- **systemic disease** resulting in deterioration in renal function
- mutations in two genes (*PKD1* and *PKD2*)
- recently, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) approved the use of the **vasopressin V2 receptor antagonist tolvaptan** to slow the progression of cyst development and renal insufficiency in adult ADPKD patients with CKD 1-3 at initiation of treatment with evidence of rapidly progressing disease.



# Monitoring of growth of cysts in ADPKD by MR



increase of kidney size: 5.27% per y

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Tolvaptan in Patients with Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease

Vicente E. Torres, M.D., Ph.D., Arlene B. Chapman, M.D.,  
Olivier Devuyst, M.D., Ph.D., Ron T. Gansevoort, M.D., Ph.D.,  
Jared J. Grantham, M.D., Eiji Higashihara, M.D., Ph.D., Ronald D. Perrone, M.D.,  
Holly B. Krasa, M.S., John Ouyang, Ph.D., and Frank S. Czerwiec, M.D., Ph.D.,  
for the TEMPO 3:4 Trial Investigators\*

## BACKGROUND

The course of autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD) is often associated with pain, hypertension, and kidney failure. Preclinical studies indicated that vasopressin V<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonists inhibit cyst growth and slow the decline of kidney function.

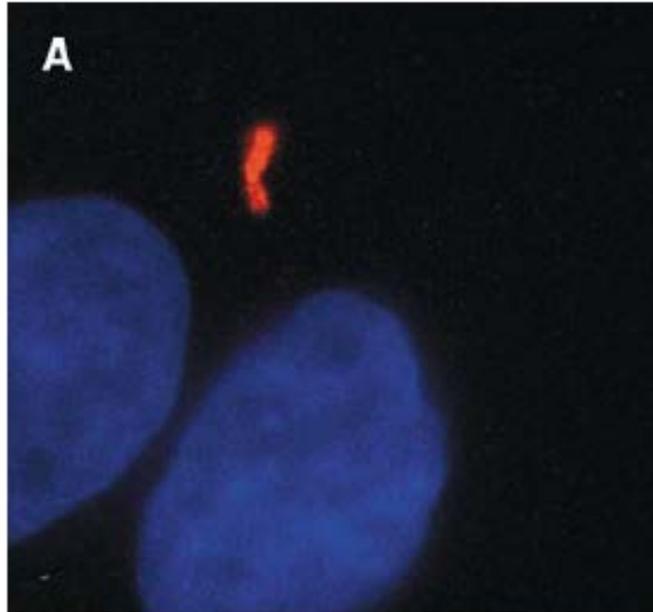
2.8 vs 5.5. % per year



# Polycystic kidney disease—the ciliary connection

Albert C M Ong, Denys N Wheatley

Polycystin → signaling pathways

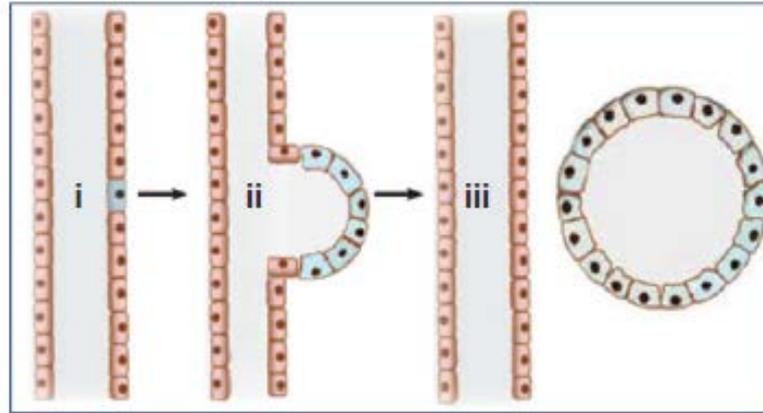


structure of a primary cilia

**PATHOGENESIS**

loss of heterozygosity of PKD in the distal nephron

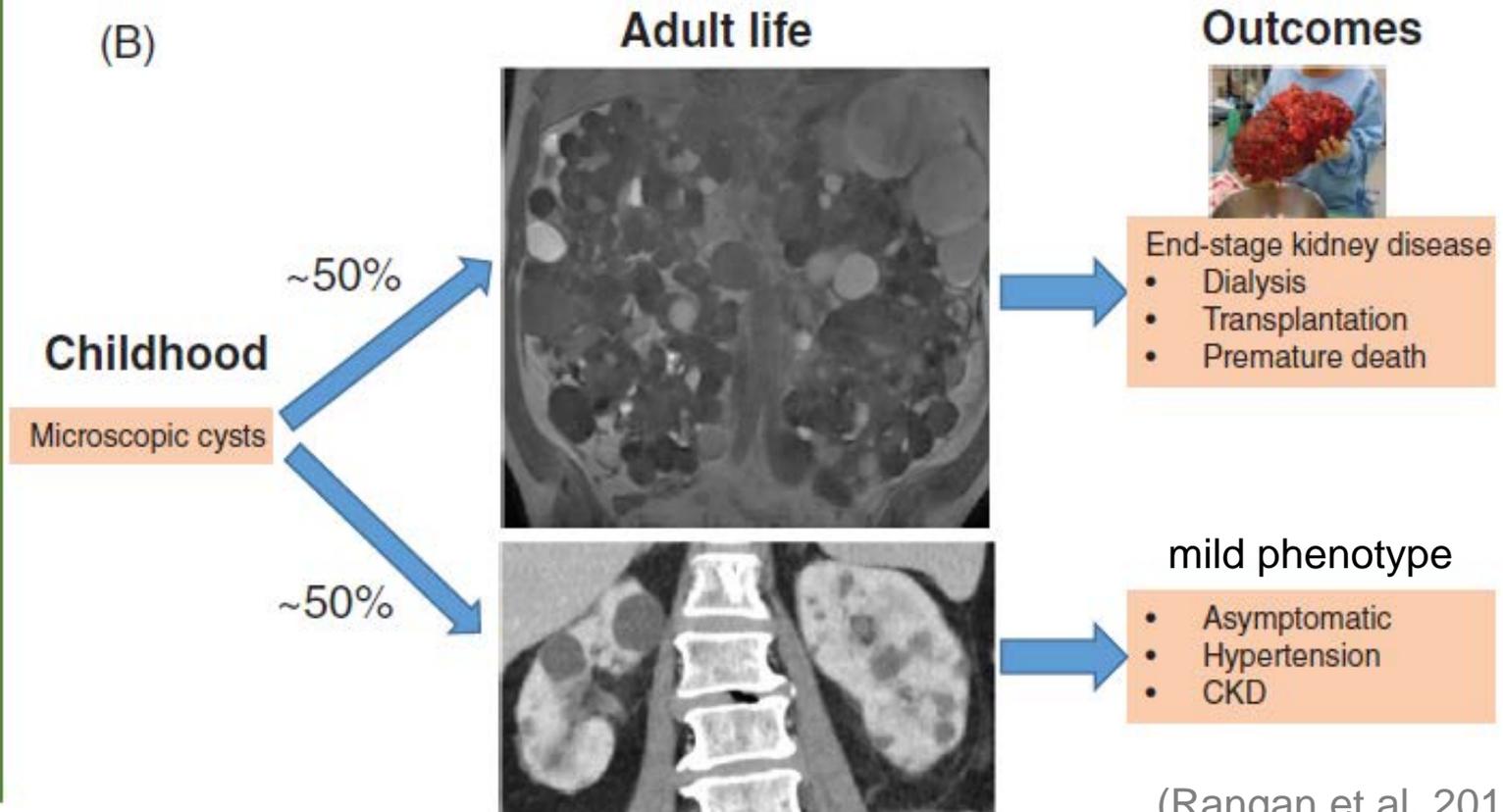
(A)



loss of cellular polarity, proliferation, transepithelial fluid secretion, ECM remodeling

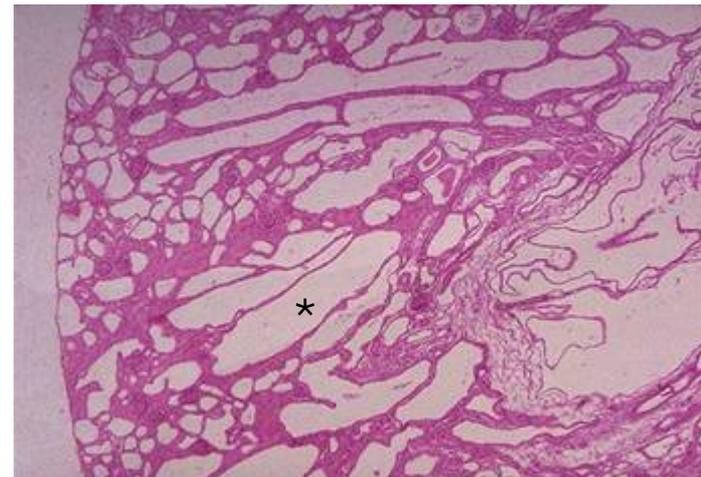
**NATURAL HISTORY**

(B)



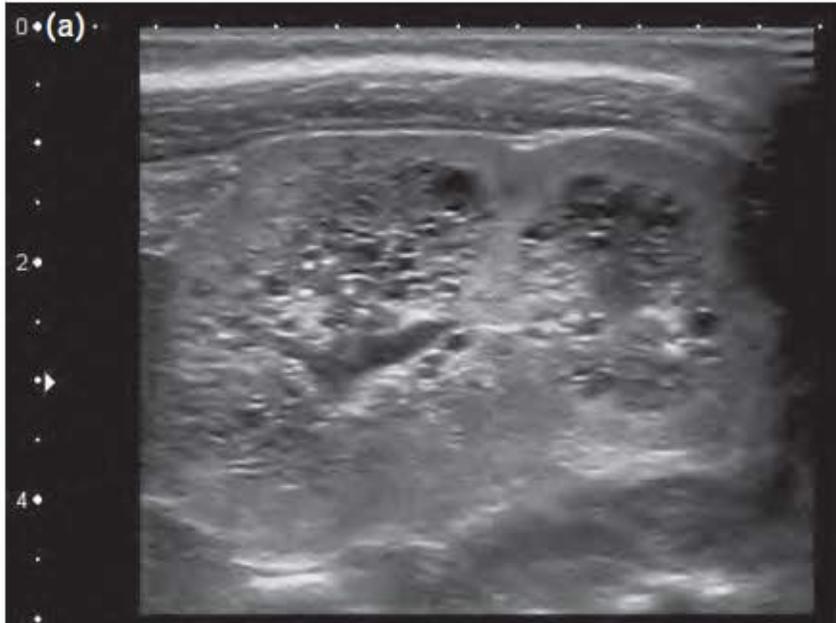
# Autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease (ARPKD)

- Belongs to a group of **congenital hepatorenal fibrocystic syndromes** and is a cause of significant renal- and liver-related morbidity and mortality in children.
- > 300 mutations in the **PKHD1** gene (**fibrocystin**)
- The majority of individuals with ARPKD present in the **neonatal period** with enlarged echogenic kidneys.
- Renal disease is characterized by **nephromegaly, hypertension, and varying degrees of renal dysfunction.**
- >50% of affected individuals with ARPKD progress to **ESRD** within the first decade of life
- ESRD may require **kidney transplantation.**



# Clinical manifestations of autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease

*Peter F. Hoyer*

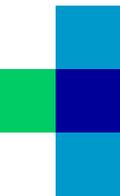


Predominantly medullary cyst distribution

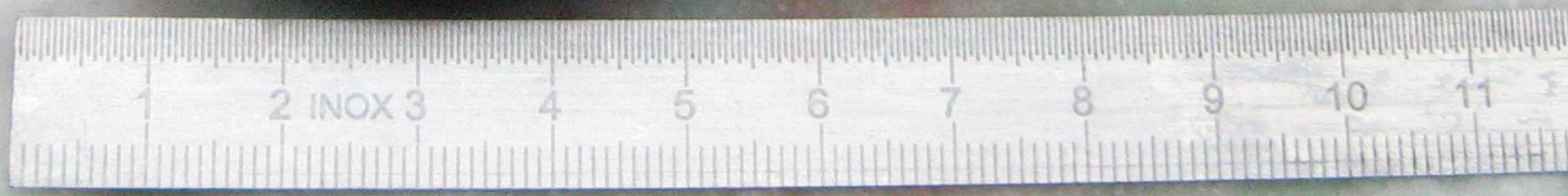
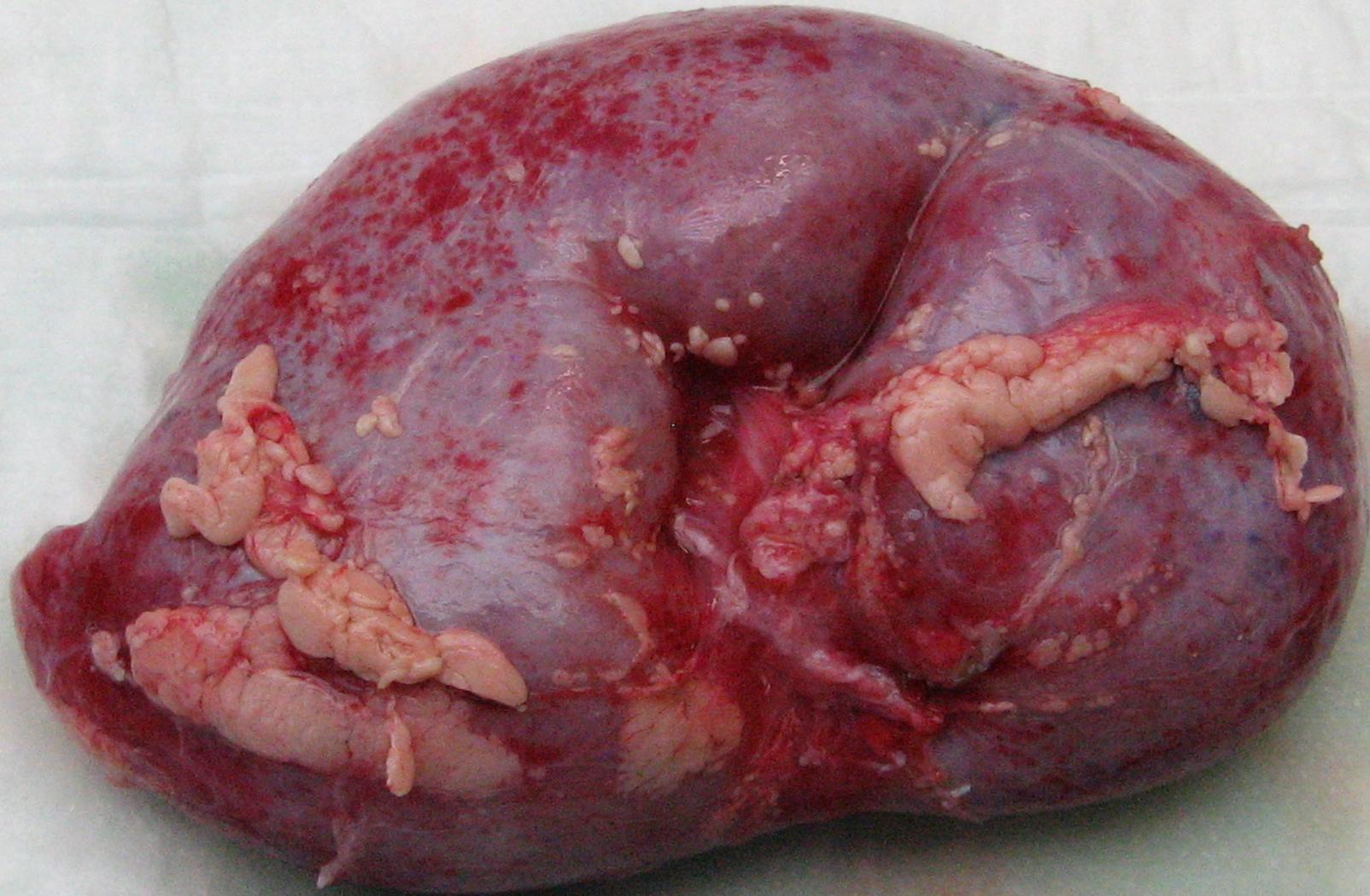


Corticomedullary cyst distribution

# Difficult case



140 g





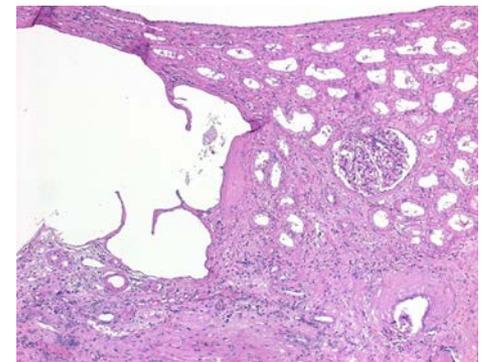
# What is it ?

- ARPKD ?
- ADPKD
- Anything else ?

Extended family history: father with renal cysts....

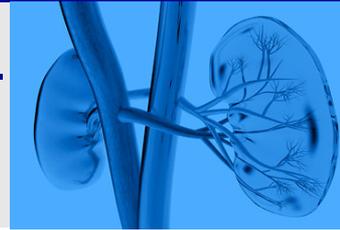
Genetic testing:  
sporadic mutations in both parents resulting  
in an ADPKD-like disease

**Morphology important to detect findings  
or patterns that do not fit  
→ genetic testing to confirm suspicion !**



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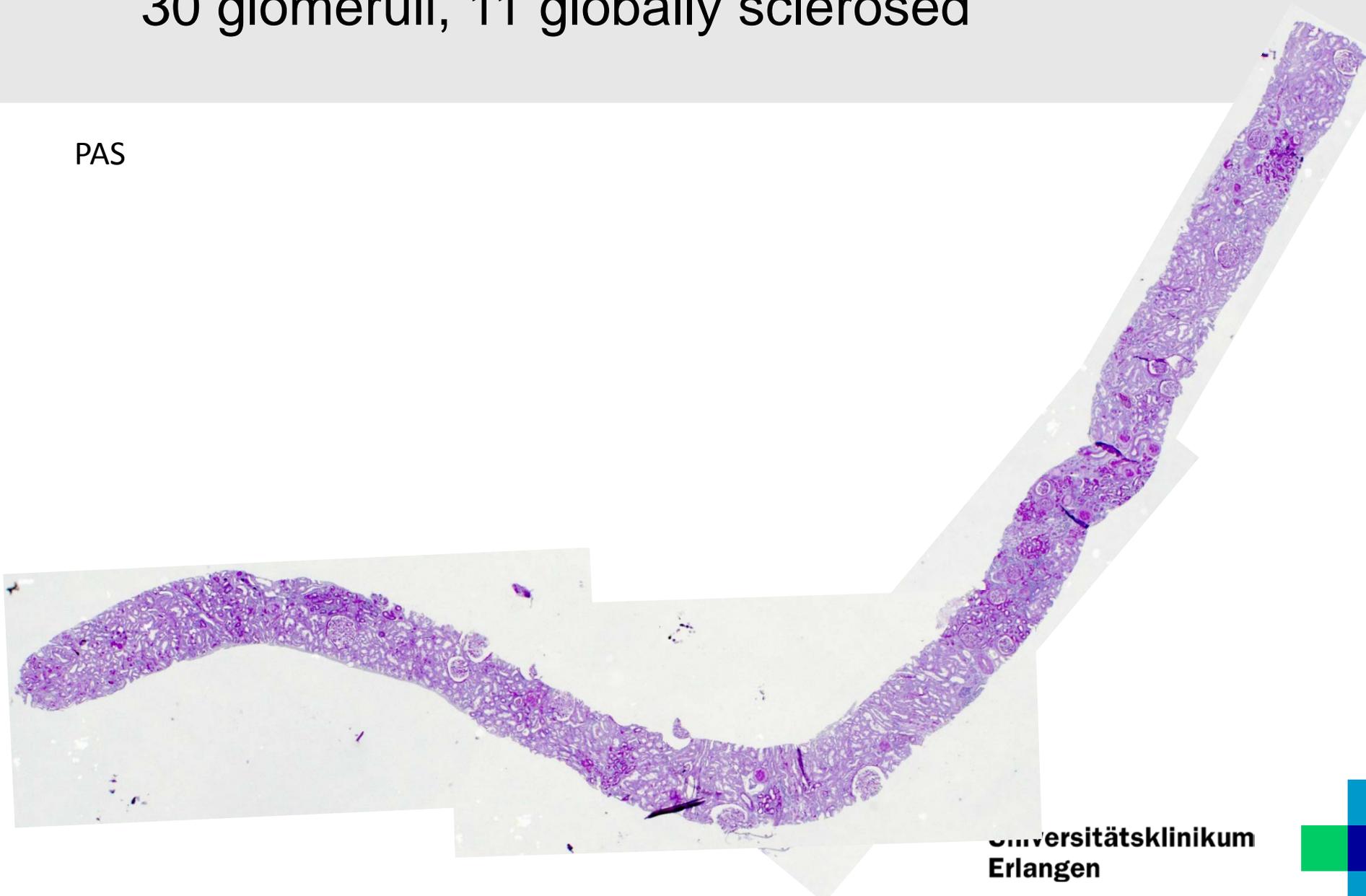


# Interesting case

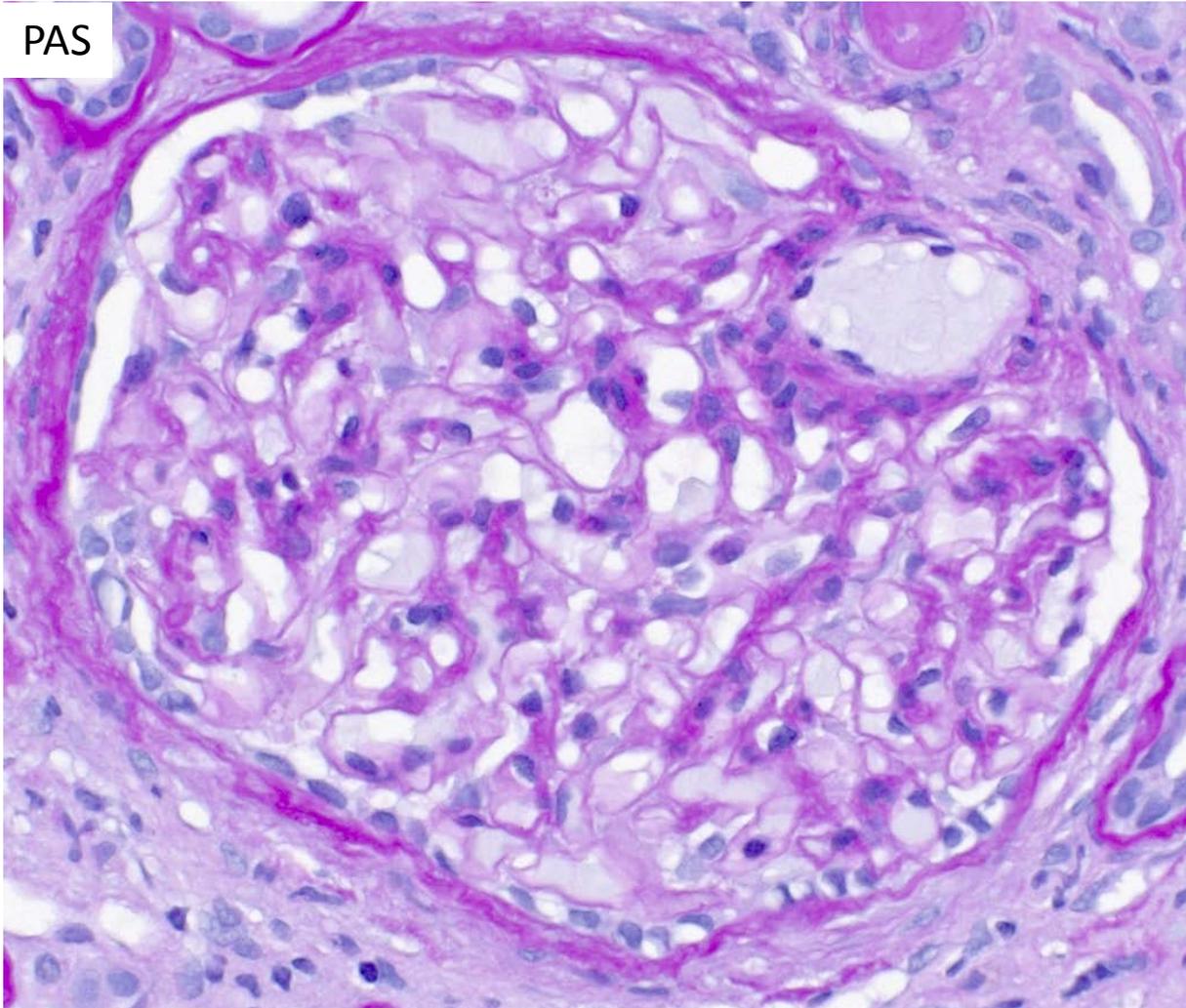


30 glomeruli, 11 globally sclerosed

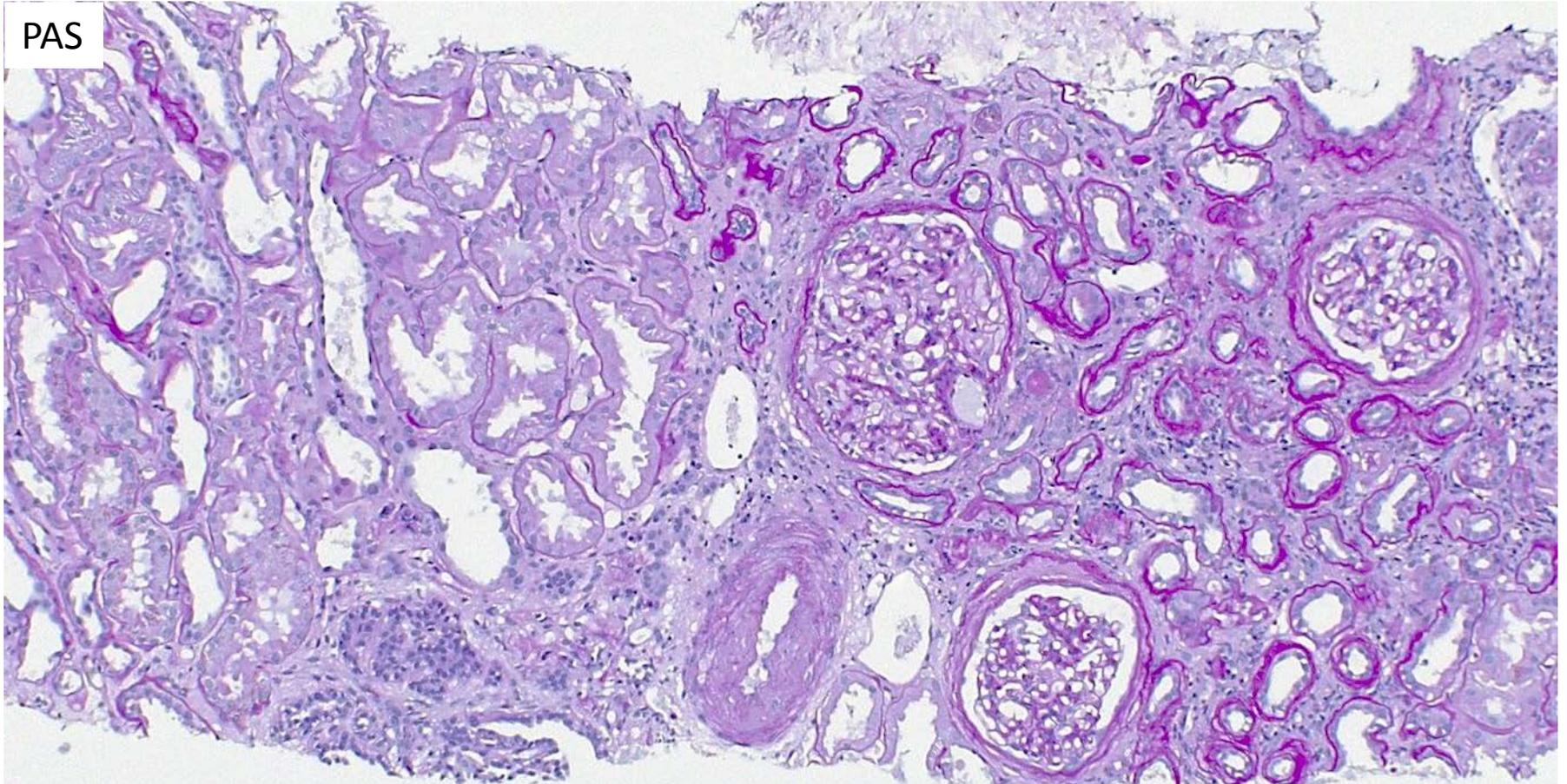
PAS



Other glomeruli normal.

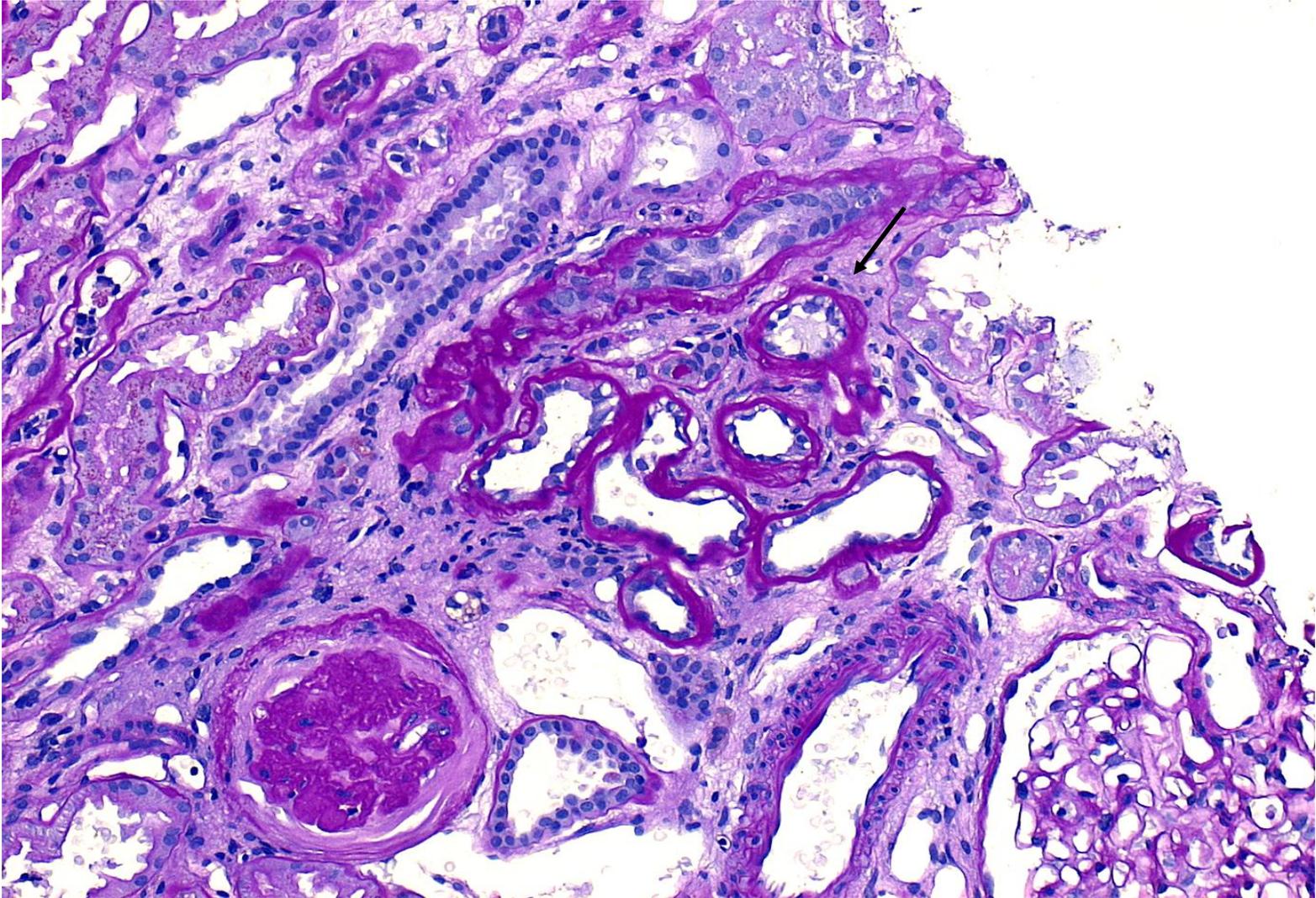


# Acute tubular damage (ATN), 20-25 % IF/TA.



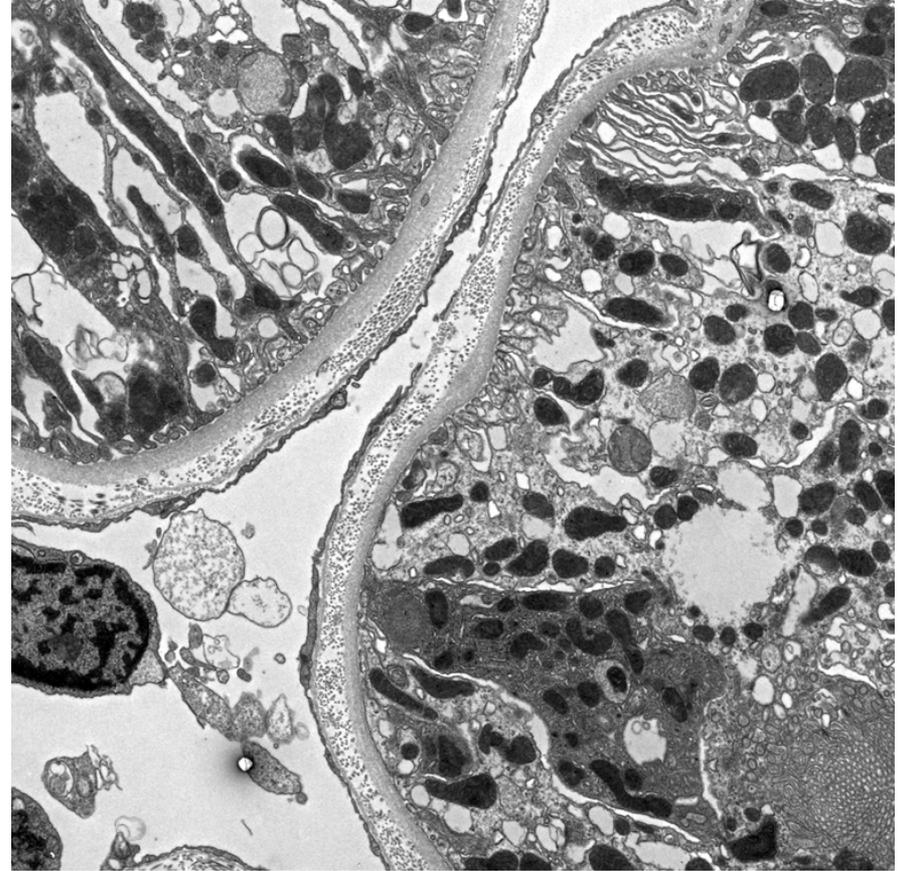
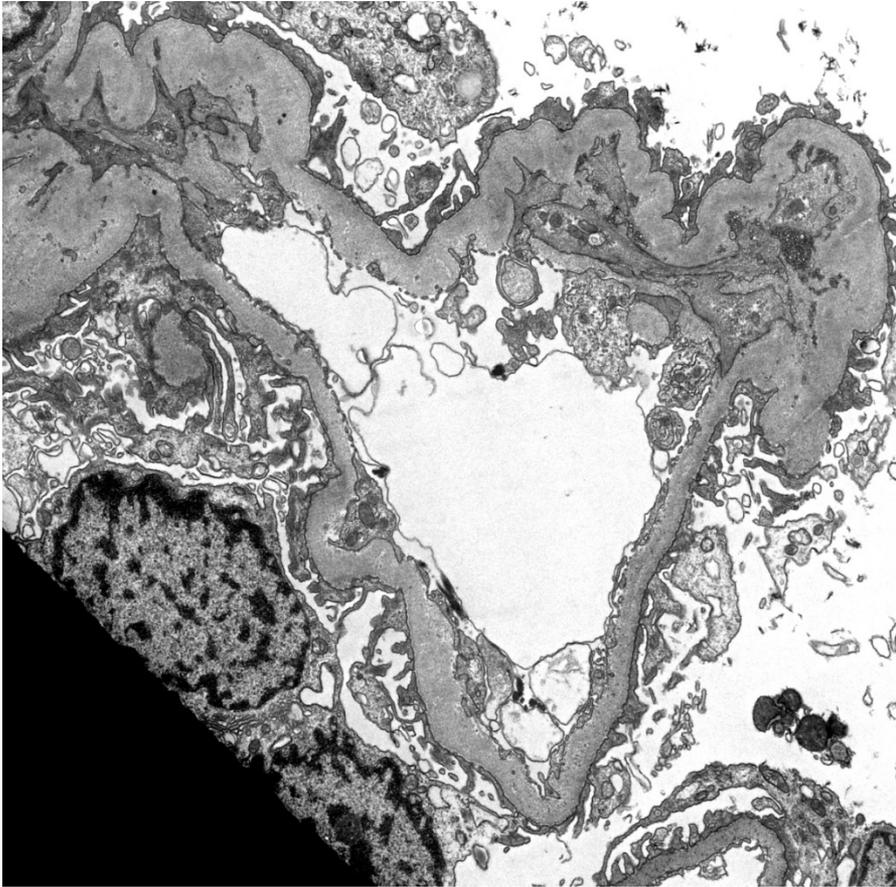
# Thickened and lamellated tubular basement membranes

PAS



## **Electron microscopy:**

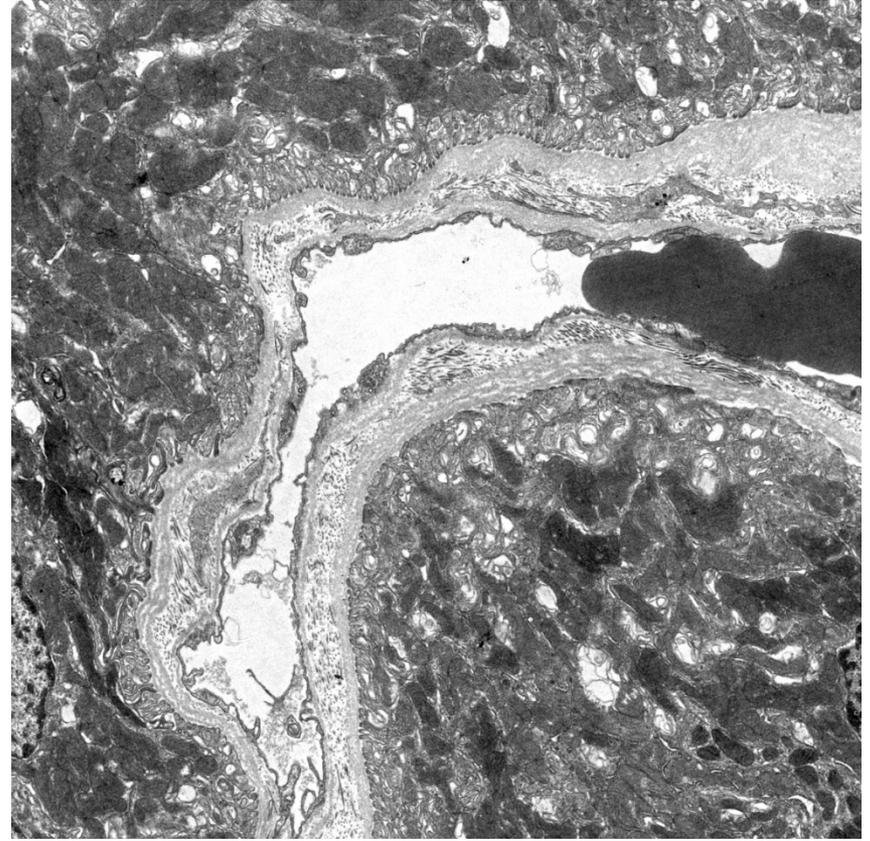
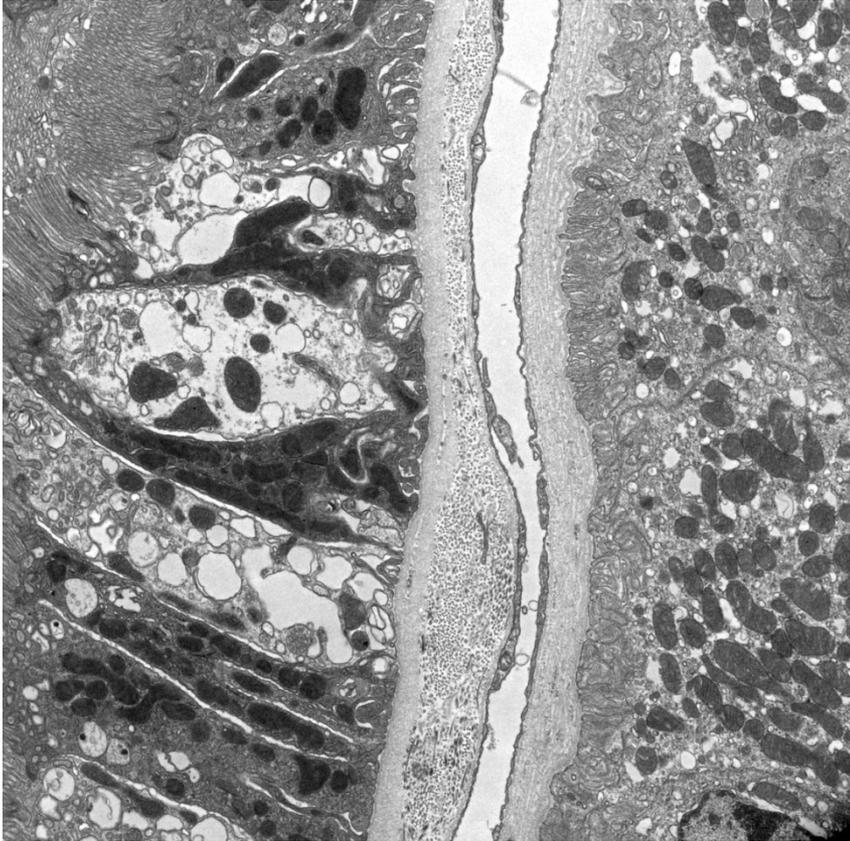
Mild thickening and wrinkling of glomerular and tubular basement membranes, lamellation of tubular basement membranes. No osmiophilic deposits, no fibrils.



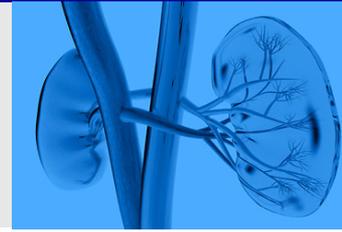
## Electron microscopy:

Mild thickening and lamellation of tubular basement membranes.

No osmiophilic deposits, no fibrils.



# Diagnosis



- Global glomerulosclerosis (11/30)
- Ischemic glomerular damage and moderate arteriosclerosis (hypertension ?)
- 20-25 % IF/TA with thickened and lamellated tubular basement membranes

→ In view of the positive family history highly suggestive for an autosomal dominant tubulointerstitial kidney disease (i.e. ADTKD-UMOD).

→ Genetic testing:  
Mutation in Uromodulin (Umod) was confirmed.



# Autosomal dominant tubulointerstitial kidney disease: diagnosis, classification, and management—A KDIGO consensus report

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**Table 1 | New gene-based classification and terminology of different types of ADTKD**

Causal Gene	Proposed terminology	Previously used terminology
<i>UMOD</i>	ADTKD- <i>UMOD</i>	UKD (Uromodulin Kidney Disease) <sup>a</sup> UAKD (Uromodulin-Associated Kidney Disease) FJHN (Familial Juvenile Hyperuricemic Nephropathy) MCKD2 (Medullary Cystic Kidney Disease type 2)
<i>MUC1</i>	ADTKD- <i>MUC1</i>	MKD (Mucin-1 Kidney Disease) <sup>a</sup> MCKD1 (Medullary Cystic Kidney Disease type 1)
<i>REN</i>	ADTKD- <i>REN</i>	FJHN2 (Familial Juvenile Hyperuricemic Nephropathy type 2)
<i>HNF1B</i>	ADTKD- <i>HNF1B</i>	MODY5 (Maturity-Onset Diabetes mellitus of the Young type 5) RCAD (Renal Cyst and Diabetes Syndrome)
Not known; i.e., not otherwise specified (either not tested or genetic test without definitive result)	ADTKD— <i>NOS</i>	

Abbreviations: ADTKD, Autosomal Dominant Tubulointerstitial Kidney Disease; HNF1B, hepatocyte nuclear factor 1β; MUC1, mucin-1; NOS, not otherwise specified; REN, renin; UMOD, uromodulin.

<sup>a</sup>These terms may be easier to use in communicating with patients.

# Clinical findings in ADTKD

## Table 2 | Usual clinical findings in patients with ADTKD

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- Autosomal dominant inheritance
  - Progressive loss of kidney function
  - Bland urinary sediment
  - Absent-to-mild albuminuria/proteinuria
  - No severe hypertension during early stages
  - No drug exposure potentially causing tubulointerstitial nephritis
  - Normal or small-sized kidneys on ultrasound
  - Nocturia or enuresis in children (owing to loss of renal concentration ability)
- 

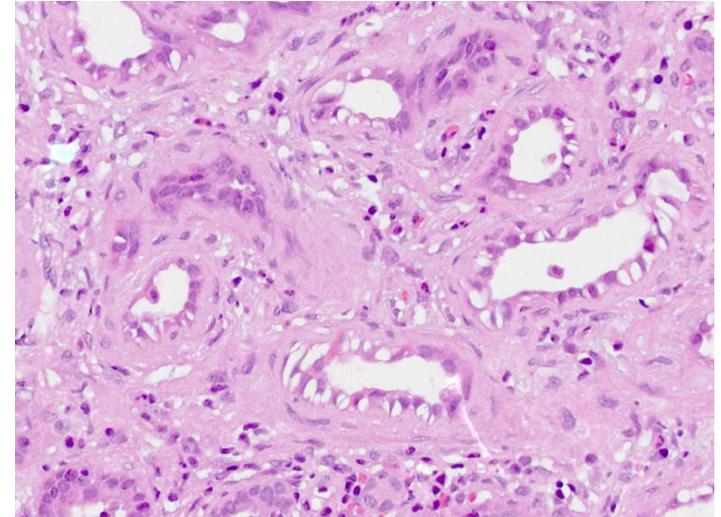
Abbreviation: ADTKD, Autosomal Dominant Tubulointerstitial Kidney Disease.

+ specific findings in each of the 4 different types of ADTKD  
(i.e. hyperuricemia / gout in ADTKD-UMOD)

# Typical histology in ADTKD ?

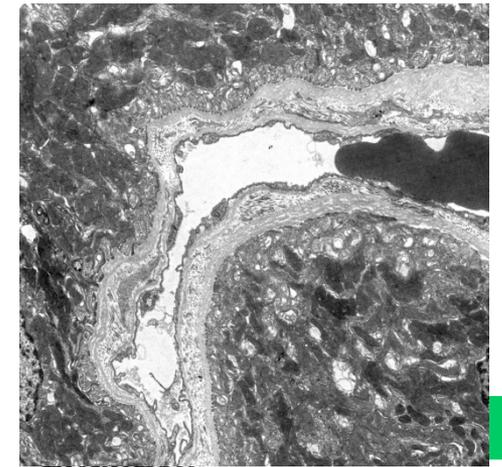
- untypical and unspecific

- Interstitial fibrosis
- Tubular atrophy
- Thickening and lamellation of tubular basement membranes (→ EM)
- (cystic) tubular degeneration
- negative IH/- IF



→ unspecific findings

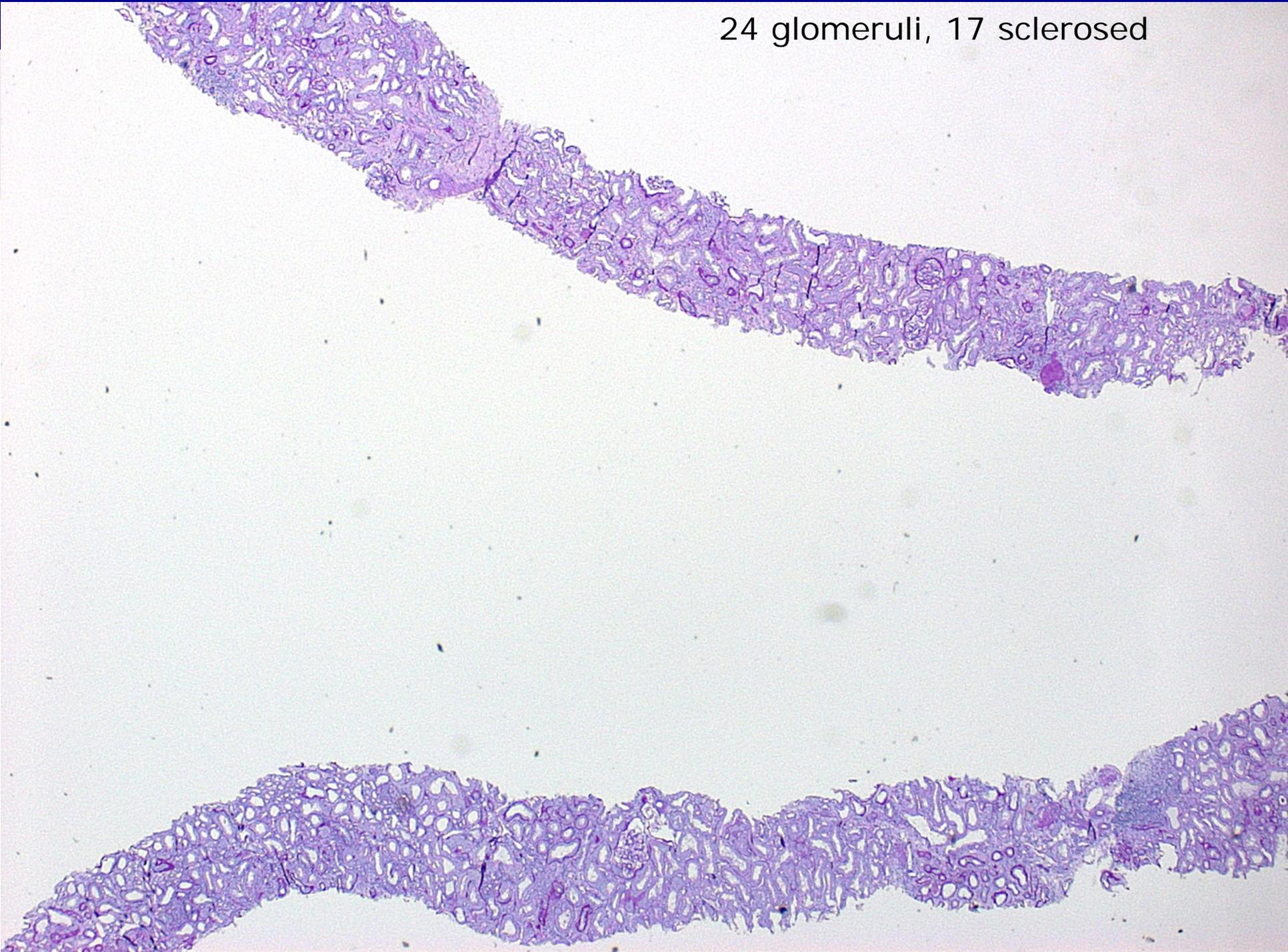
→ family history and genetic testing



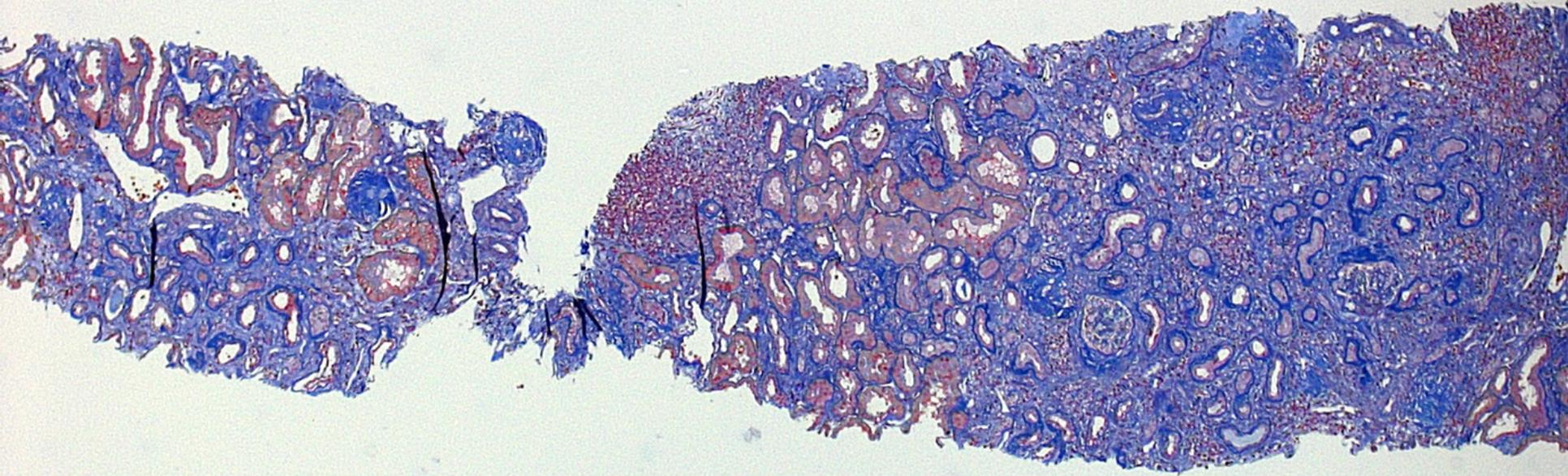
And now a very last case

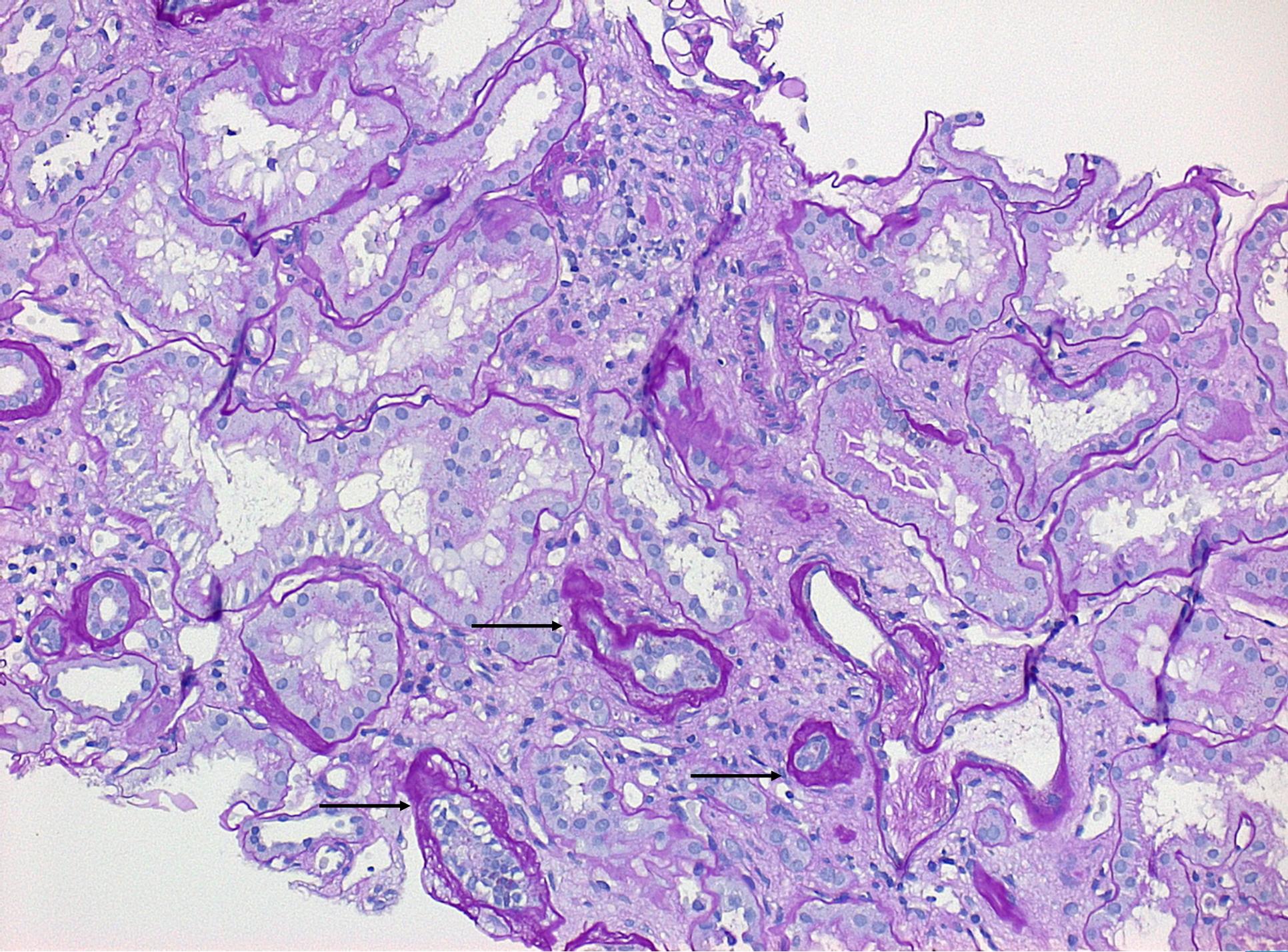


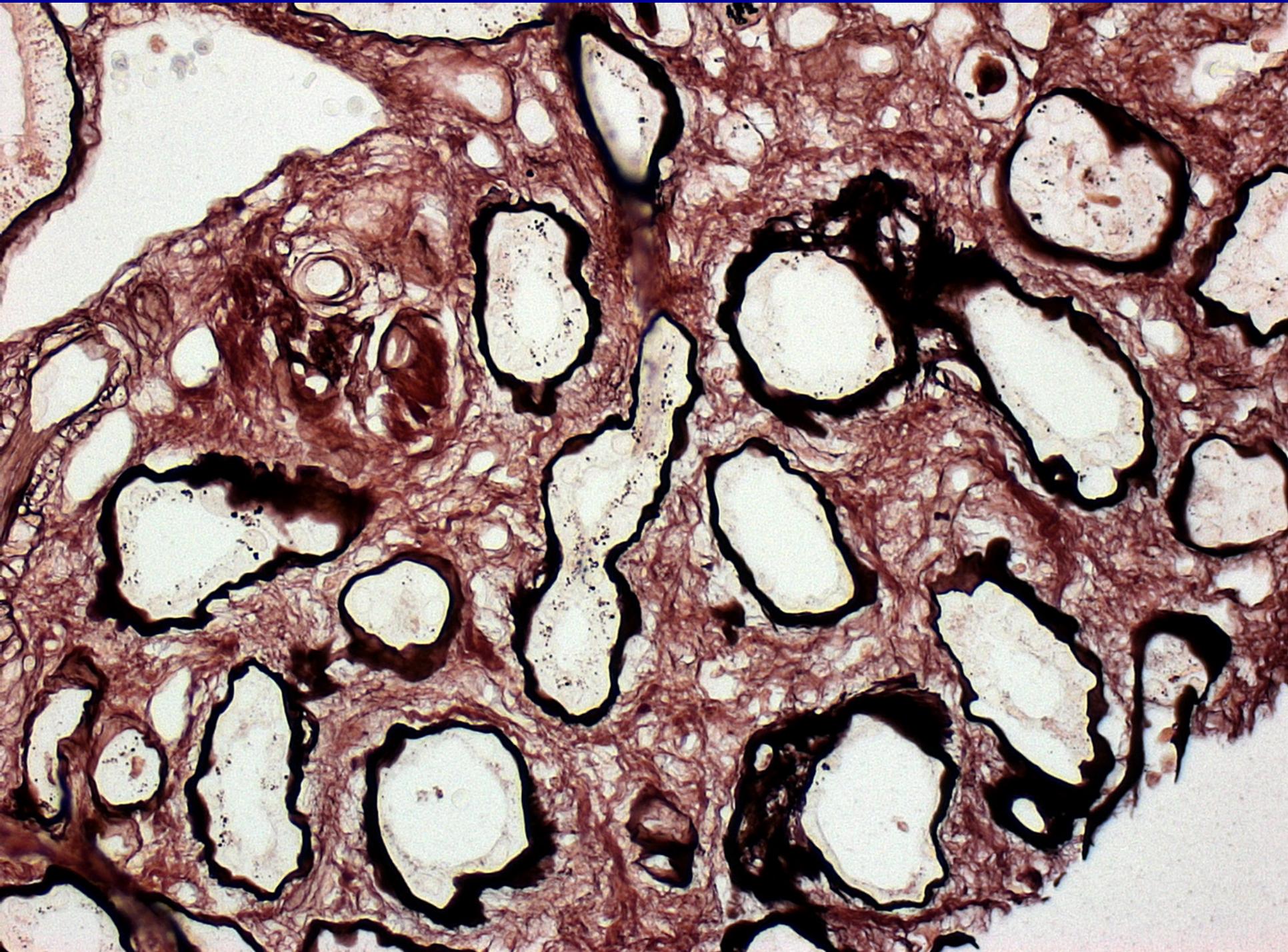
24 glomeruli, 17 sclerosed

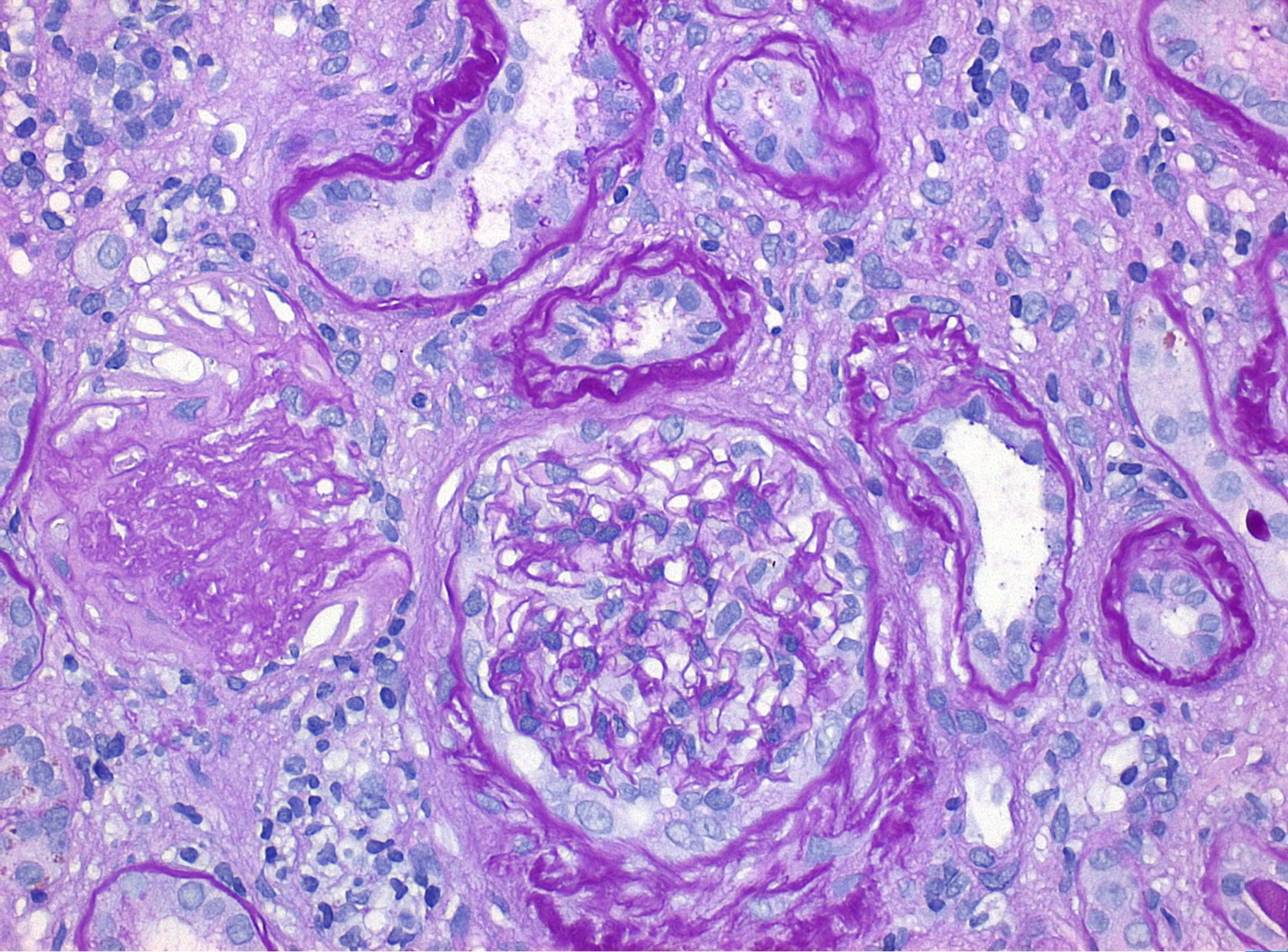


approx. 20% IFTA

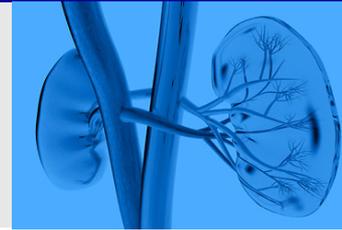








# Diagnosis



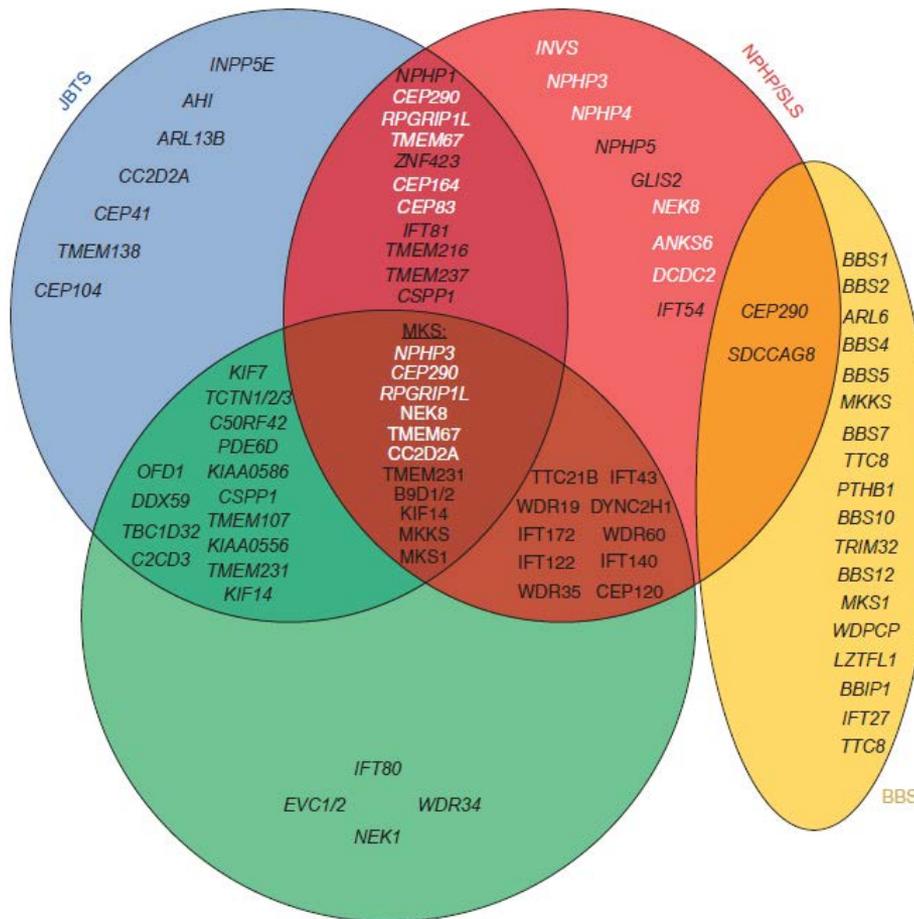
- Advanced global glomerulosclerosis (17/24)
- Ca. 20 % IF/TA
- Mild arterio-arteriolasclerosis
- Moderate tubular damage
- Mild focal interstitial inflammation
- **Suspicious for autosomal dominant tubulointerstitial kidney disease (ADTKD)**
- **Genetic testing**
- Counseling of pediatric nephrologist: history of polydipsia
- Genetic testing for nephronophthisis
- **positive for NPHP1 → nephronophthisis**



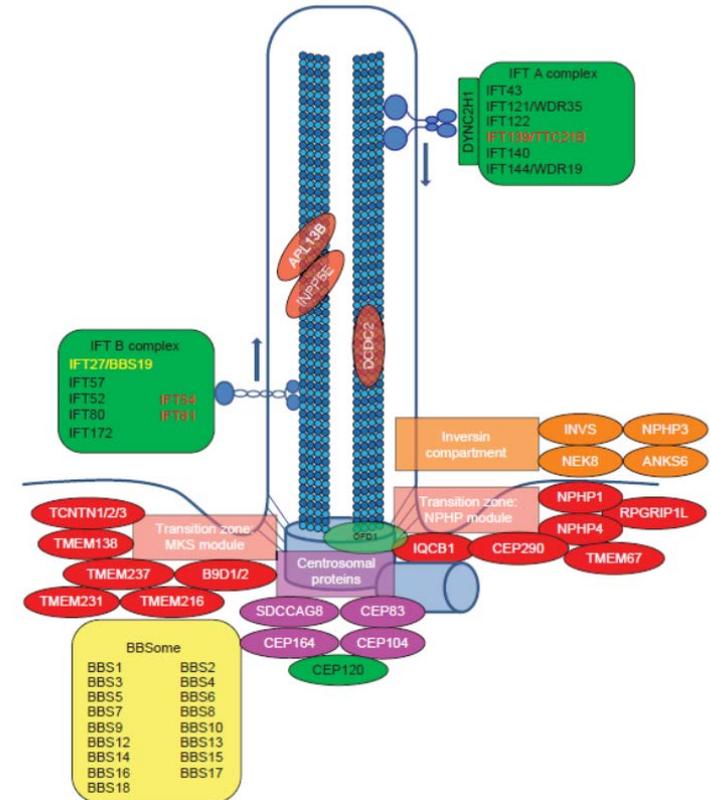
# Monogenic genes of nephronophthisis-related ciliopathies (NPHP-RC)

> 90 genes

Ciliopathies



Skeletal ciliopathies (OFD, CED, SRTD)



# 3 major phenotypes of NPH – most important cause of ESRD in children

Infantile NPH	3 years	oligohydramnios sequence
Juvenile NPH (most common form)	13 years	polydipsia and poly-uria, growth retardation, chronic iron-resistant anemia, or other findings of CKD
Adolescent/ adult NPH	19 years	See above

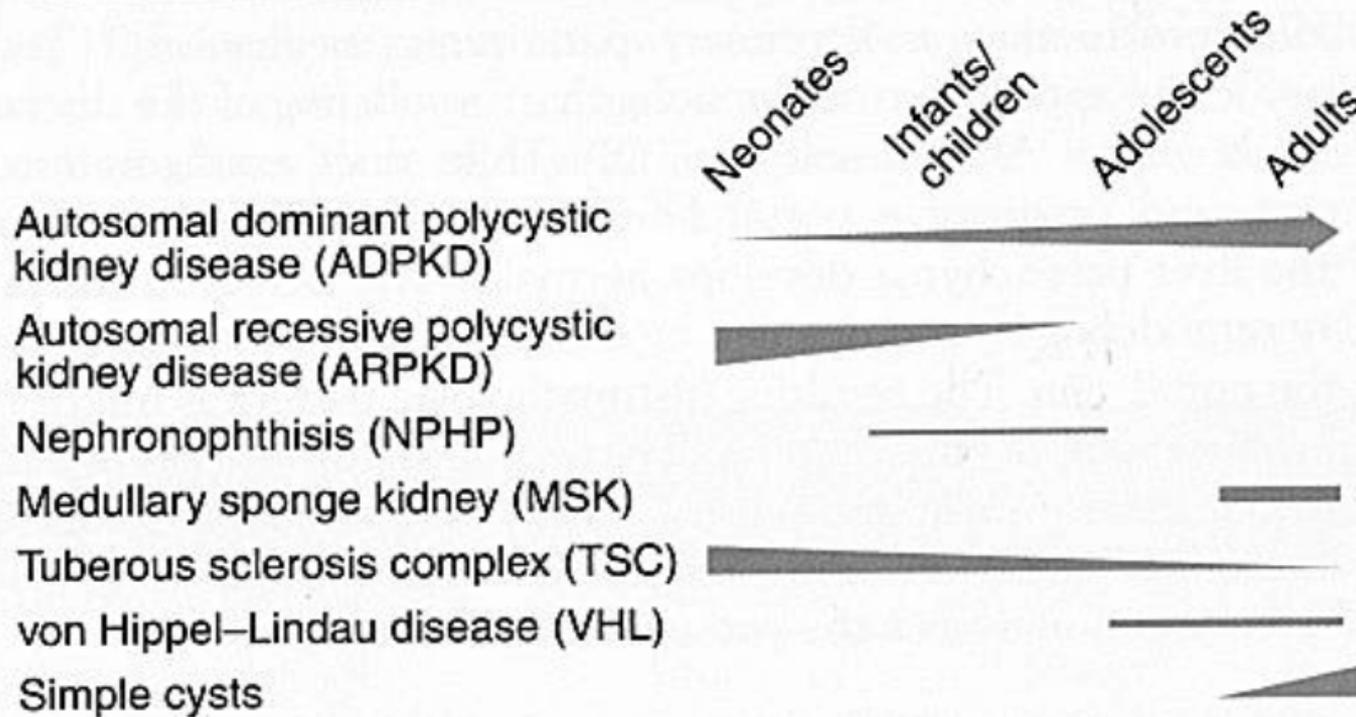
## Histologic findings:

tubulointerstitial fibrosis  
thickened and disrupted tubular basement membrane  
sporadic corticomedullary cysts  
normal or reduced kidney size.



# Age distribution of renal cystic disorders

## Age distribution of renal cystic disorders



→ marked overlap  
→ additional genetic information helpful to correctly classify PKD !

# Role of genetics in renal diagnosis

- Although of great importance, morphological information is sometimes limited, most likely due to limited reaction patterns of the body (i.e. the kidney)  
  
→ molecular biology and genetics may help to better classify and treat renal diseases
- It is the pleasure and duty of the renal pathologist to ask for additional genetic tests where appropriate!

