

POST TRANSPLANT FSGS RECURRENCE



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INTRODUCTION



- Recurrence of FSGS in graft is **30-50%** and is the cause for graft loss.
- Present with **rapid nephrotic-range** proteinuria with a median time to recurrence of 1.5 months.
- Proteinuria from native kidneys decreases significantly within 1 month of transplantation hence proteinuria detected more than 1 month after KT is most likely derived from the allograft.
- Rare in patients with genetic FSGS and those without nephrotic syndrome at onset.

RISK FACTORS



- **Higher risk** of recurrence: younger age of disease onset, white race ,rapid progression of initial disease [< 3 years] , living-related KT, history of recurrence in a previous kidney allograft, and native kidney nephrectomies .
- A family history of FSGS, histologic subtype in the native kidney, and choice of transplantation immunosuppressive therapy have not been shown to alter the risk of recurrence.

Recurrence of Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis after Kidney Transplantation in Adults



Post-Transplant
Glomerular Disease
Project (TANGO)



Observational
Multicenter
International



2005 to 2015



Kidney transplant
recipients
 $n = 11,742$

Risk Factors for recurrence



Old age

Hazard Ratio

1.37

per decade
(1.09-1.56)



White race

2.14

(1.08-4.22)



BMI

0.89

per Kg/m^2
(0.83-0.95)



Native kidney
nephrectomy

2.76

(1.16-6.57)

Recurrence of FSGS



32%
($n = 57$)

Recurrent FSGS



39%
(22 of 57)

Graft loss

Median IQR: 5 years

Response to treatment of recurrent FSGS



81%
($n = 61$)

Plasmapheresis \pm
Rituximab were the
most frequent
treatments

21%
($n = 13$)

Complete
Remission

36%
($n = 22$)

Partial
Remission

43%
($n = 26$)

No
Response

Conclusions: Idiopathic FSGS recurs post-transplant in one-third of cases, increasing by five-fold the risk of graft loss. Response to treatment significantly improves outcomes achieved in only half of the cases.

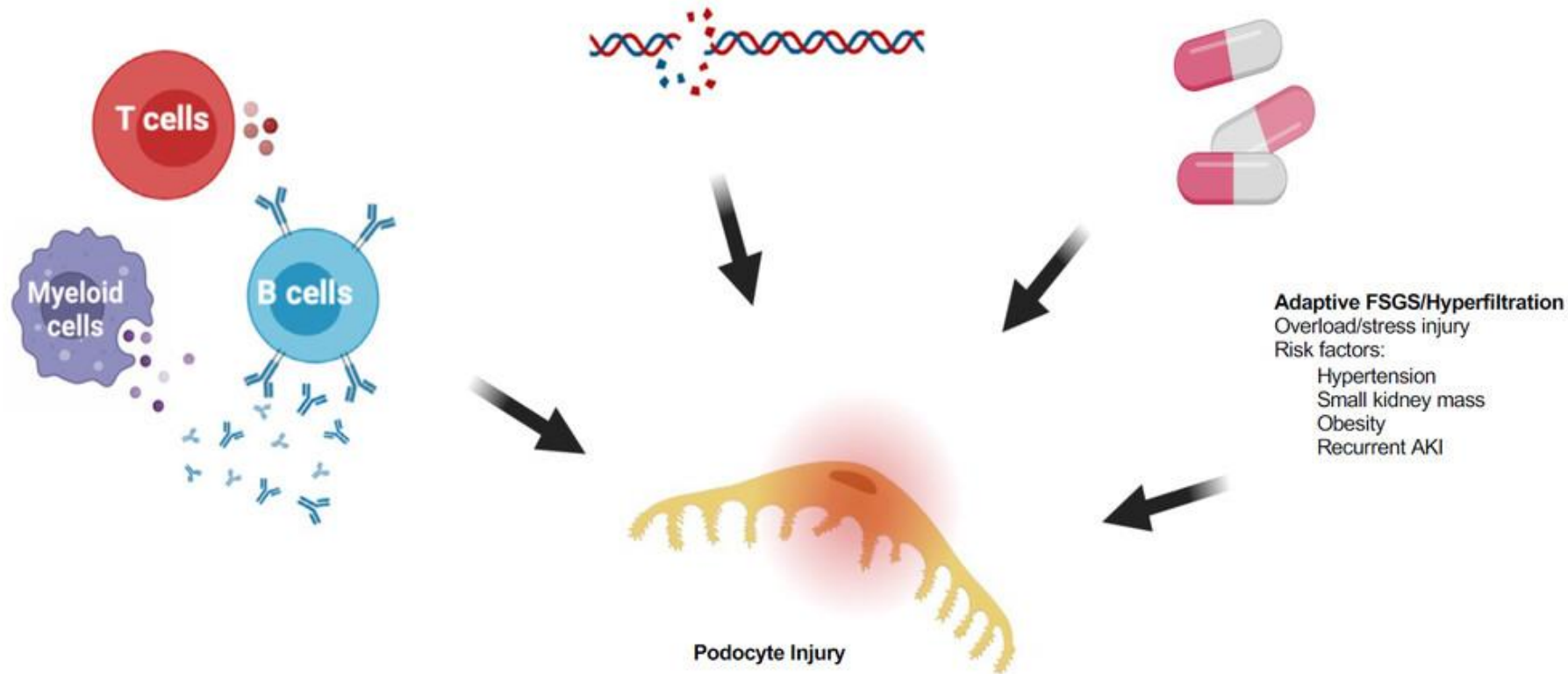
Audrey Uffing, Maria José Pérez-Sáez, Marilda Mazzali, et al. **Recurrence of Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis after Kidney Transplantation in Adults.** CJASN doi: 10.2215/CJN.08970719. Visual Abstract by Edgar Lerma, MD, FACP, FASN

Underlying etiologies for the podocytopathy in FSGS patients

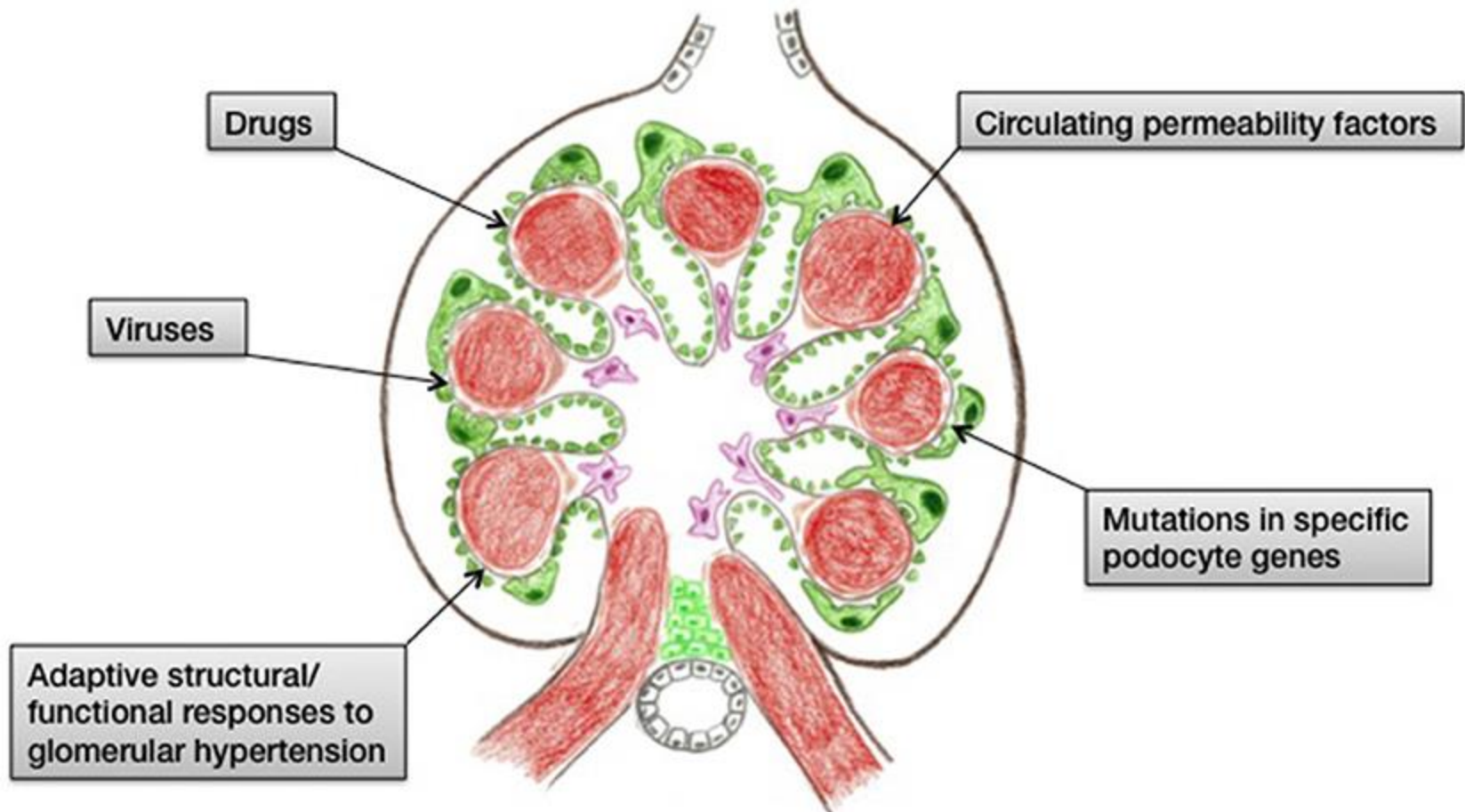
Systemic FSGS
Circulating factor(s)
(likely immune related)

Genetic FSGS
High penetrance/low frequency
(e.g., nephrin mutation, COL4A3/A4/A5)
Low penetrance/high frequency
(e.g., APOL1 high-risk variants)

Medication-associated FSGS
Direct podocyte toxicity
(e.g., pamidronate, lithium, mTOR inhibitors)



Post transplant recurrence - etiologies



MECHANISM OF RECURRENCE

- T and/or B cell abnormality
- Permeability factor(s)
- Hyperfiltration
- Toxicity of immunosuppressive drugs (mTOR inhibitors)

↓
Podocyte injury

↓
Podocyte loss

↓
Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis

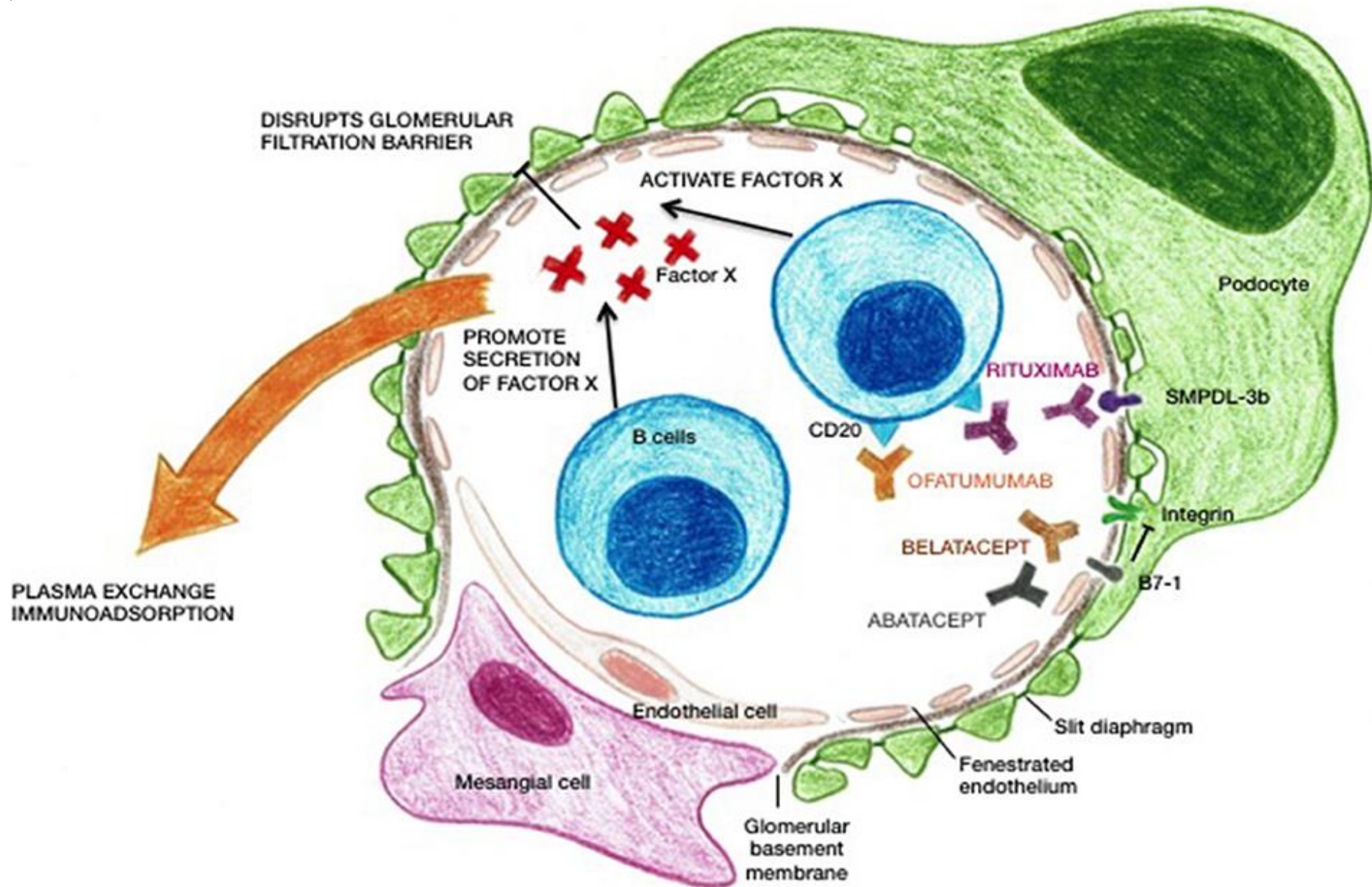
↓
Progressive graft scarring and function loss

Proteinuria and TGF- β upregulation

↑ Angiotensin II and shear stress

↓ Nephron signaling
↓ Vascular endothelial growth factor

THERAPEUTIC TARGETS IN FSGS



TREATMENT OPTIONS



- PLASMAPHERESIS – most effective in removing circulating permeability factors.
- RITUXIMAB - Anti-CD 20 monoclonal antibody.
- OFATUMUMAB – fully human anti- CD 20 monoclonal antibody that depletes B – cells.
- BELATAOCEPT – co - stimulation blocker.
- ABATACEPT – selective T cell co stimulation blocker.
- LIPID APHERESIS – LDL apheresis.

RETRANSPLANT



- FSGS in the first KT are at very **high risk (up to 75%) for recurrence** in subsequent kidney allografts.
- Second KT should be delayed for 1–2 years ➡ disappearance of the circulating factors responsible for the glomerular injury.
- A **third KT** in patients with two previous transplant losses due to recurrent FSGS should **generally be avoided**.
- **Prophylactic** plasmapheresis and rituximab do not appear to decrease the rate of recurrence after transplantation.

ESTABLISHED AND EMERGING THERAPIES FOR FSGS

Immunosuppression (primary FSGS):

- Glucocorticoids
- CNI
- Anti-CD20 antibody
- ACTH
- MMF
- Anti-CD20 antibody
- Anti-CD40 antibody
- Anti-C5 antibody
- B-7 costimulatory inhibitor
- mTOR inhibitor
- Chlorambucil
- Plasma exchange

Causative directed therapies:

- Antiviral agents
- Obesity treatment
- CoQ10 supplementation
- APOL1 antagonist

Podocyte specific therapies:

- TRPC5/6 channel inhibitor
- SLIT2 antagonist
- Lipid modifying drug

Antifibrotic/ hemodynamic effect:

- RAS inhibitors
- SGLT2 inhibitor
- Endothelin antagonist
- CCR2 inhibitor
- Janus Kinase-STAT inhibitor
- Anti-TGF- β antibody
- p38 MAPK inhibitor
- Anti-human TNF- α antibody
- Pirfenidone
- Nrf2 activator/NF- κ B inhibitor