

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Albuminuria in patients with type II diabetes with retinopathy

CHIKE MAGNUS NZERUE  
Atlanta, Georgia

Correspondence to Chike Magnus Nzerue, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Morehouse School of Medicine, 720 Westview Drive, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia, 30310-1495, USA

**To the Editor:** Christensen et al recently reported their findings on the causes of albuminuria in patients with type II diabetes mellitus without retinopathy [1]. Our experience with the prevalence of nondiabetic renal disease among African Americans with type II diabetes has also recently been reported [2]. In our series the prevalence of nondiabetic renal disease was 19.4%. Furthermore, retinopathy was diagnosed by fluorescein angiography in only 60% of patients with biopsy-proved diabetic nephropathy. This finding, as well as those from a recent Japanese study, suggests that the concordance between retinopathy and nephropathy in patients with type II diabetes is not as close as that observed in patients with type I diabetes mellitus, at least in non-Caucasian populations [3]. In our series, we also found focal segmental glomerulosclerosis in 50% of type II diabetics who had no biopsy evidence of diabetic nephropathy. The possibility that early focal segmental glomerulosclerosis may explain albuminuria in patients with type II diabetes mellitus with normal histology should be considered substantial, contrary to the views of Christensen et al, especially in populations with a high prevalence of focal glomerulosclerosis.

### REFERENCES

1. CHRISTENSEN PK, LARSEN S, HORN T, *et al*: Causes of albuminuria in patients with type II diabetes without diabetic retinopathy. *Kidney Int* 58:1719–1731, 2000
2. NZERUE CM, HEWAN-LOWE K, HARVEY P, *et al*: Prevalence of nondiabetic renal disease among African American patients with type II diabetes mellitus. *Scan J Urol Nephrol* 34:331–335, 2000
3. KANAUCHI M, KAWANO T, UYAMA H, *et al*: Discordance between retinopathy and nephropathy in type II diabetes. *Nephron* 80:171–174, 1998

### Reply from the author

The data referred to by Dr. Nzerue in his letter are not published and it is therefore impossible for us to comment on the results. However, the results concerning the prevalence of nondiabetic renal disease and the prevalence of retinopathy in patients with diabetic glomerulosclerosis are in agreement with most of the other unbiased studies, including our own previously published studies.

PER K. CHRISTENSEN FOR THE AUTHORS  
Gentofte, Denmark

Correspondence to Per K. Christensen, M.D., Steno Diabetes Center, Niels Steensens Vej 2, Gentofte, DK-2820, Denmark