



Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis

What is Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis (FSGS)?

Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis (FSGS) is a disease that affects the kidney's filtering system (glomeruli) causing scarring and loss of large amounts of protein in the urine.

Who gets FSGS?

Children and adults of all ages and races can get FSGS.

What are some of the symptoms of FSGS?

FSGS causes loss of protein in the urine which may lead to:

- Swelling in parts of the body (edema) most visible in the head, hands, feet and belly
- Low level of protein in the blood (hypoalbuminemia)
- High blood cholesterol (hypercholesterolemia)
- High blood pressure (hypertension)
- Kidney failure

What causes FSGS?

There is no single cause of FSGS. When the cause is not known it is called *idiopathic* or *primary* FSGS. In some patients FSGS may be the result of a genetic or inherited disease, an infection, or another kidney disease that leads to scarring.

What is the treatment for FSGS?

Very few treatments are available for patients with FSGS. Most often, patients are treated with drugs called steroids (prednisone or prednisolone) and with blood pressure medicines. Some patients respond well to other medicines that suppress the immune system. To date, there is no treatment that works for every person with FSGS. Patients who do not respond to treatments are at risk for kidney failure. The NEPTUNE study aims to find out more about the disease for better treatments.

How is FSGS diagnosed?

With information obtained from blood tests, urine tests, and a kidney biopsy, a physician can determine if a person has FSGS.

www.neptune-study.org

