

CKD Progression and Mortality Among Men and Women: A Nationwide Study in Sweden

Rationale & Objective. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a global health problem with increasing prevalence. Several sex-specific differences have been reported for disease progression and mortality.

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Swartling et al evaluated the association between sex and kidney disease progression, initiation of kidney replacement therapy (KRT) (i.e., dialysis), and mortality in an observational cohort study of over 25,000 incident patients with non-KRT-dependent kidney disease within the Swedish Renal Registry-CKD. The authors concluded that compared to women, men had an increased risk of kidney disease progression, as well as cardiovascular and all-cause mortality.

Large, prospective studies incorporating both biological sex-based factors (such as genetics, sex hormones, physiology, and immunology) and measures of gender (such as identity, roles, relations, and institutionalized gender) are the first step in establishing differences in kidney and cardiovascular risk by sex and across genders, with the ultimate goal of improving health in all people living with kidney disease.