

A Retrospective Analysis of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Events and All-cause Mortality in Prevalent Patients with Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis (FSGS) in the US

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- If not controlled, FSGS-associated glomerular lesions often follow a progressive course to kidney failure (KF), and FSGS is a leading cause of glomerular KF in the US¹⁻³
- Persistent podocyte injury leads to proteinuria and a progressive decline in glomerular filtration rate³⁻⁵
- Chronic kidney disease is known to be associated with an increased risk of CVD but there is limited direct evidence of this association in FSGS⁶

Objectives

- Estimate the rate of CVD events in patients with FSGS
- Estimate the association between baseline proteinuria (≤ 1.5 g/g vs >1.5 - <3.5 g/g vs ≥ 3.5 g/g) and CVD events
- Estimate the relationship between KF and CVD events
- Estimate the relationship between baseline proteinuria or KF with all-cause mortality

Study design and data source

- Descriptive, retrospective analysis based on Optum's de-identified Market Clarity and proprietary natural language processed (NLP) data. The Optum[®] de-identified Market Clarity Dataset deterministically links medical and pharmacy claims with electronic health record (EHR) data from providers across the care continuum.
- Study period: January 01, 2007 – March 31, 2021
- Identification period: July 01, 2007 – March 31, 2021 (index identification period)
- Baseline period: 6 months prior to index date
- Index date: first FSGS ICD-10 diagnosis code or NLP term within the identification period
- KF defined as: first evidence of CKD stage 5 (eGFR<15 mL/min/1.73 m² or ICD-10: N18.5), kidney transplant procedure, dialysis. Patients could transition from pre- to post-KF status during follow-up, upon meeting this definition

Statistical analysis

- Categorical and continuous variables were summarized using descriptive statistics. Differences between groups were assessed using Fisher's exact test (CVD event rates) or the Jonckheere-Terpstra test (time to mortality).

Inclusion criteria

- Patients with at least two NLP term entries with “focal_segmental_glomerulosclerosis” or “segmental glomerulosclerosis” AND/OR FSGS-associated ICD-10 diagnosis codes (N03.1, N04.1, N05.1, N06.1, N07.1), within 180 days at least 30 days apart
- Patients with negation terms in relation to the FSGS NLP term were excluded (negation terms: 'deny', 'failed', 'ignore', 'n/a', 'negative', 'question', 'reject', 'rule out', 'uncertain', 'unspecified')
- Age ≥ 18 years and ≥ 6 months pre-index activity (baseline)

Exclusion criteria

- COVID-19 pre- or post-index

Outcomes

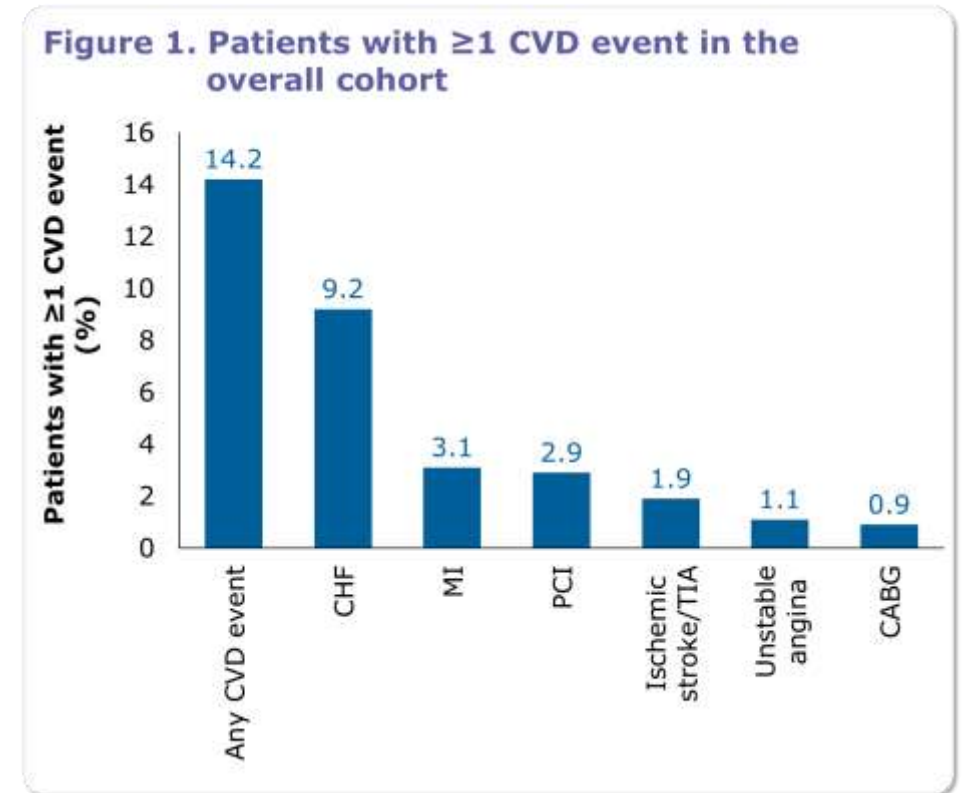
- **CVD events:** Hospital admission with a primary diagnosis of myocardial infarction (MI), ischemic stroke/transient ischemic attack (TIA), unstable angina, or congestive heart failure (CHF); inpatient or outpatient revascularization procedure (percutaneous coronary intervention [PCI] or coronary artery bypass graft [CABG]); **All-cause mortality:** death date recorded

Baseline characteristics

N=7,974	
Age, Mean (SD), years	51.1 (16.5)
Age, n (%)	
18–45 years	2,950 (37.0)
46–65 years	3,282 (41.2)
>65 years	1,742 (21.8)
Gender, n (%), Female	3,471 (43.5)
Ethnicity, n (%), Hispanic	683 (8.6)
Race, n (%)	
Caucasian	4,793 (60.1)
African American	2,130 (26.7)
Asian	253 (3.2)
Proteinuria, g/g, median (Q1,Q3)	2.3 (0.8,4.8)
eGFR, mL/min/1.73 m², median (Q1,Q3)	33.3 (16.4,60.2)
CKD stage 3-5, n (%)	5,172 (80.2)*
Charlson Comorbidity Index, mean (SD)	1.7 (1.8)
Any pre-index CVD event, n (%)	239 (3.0)

Post-index CVD events in the overall cohort

- Post-index CVD events were observed for 14.2% of patients in the overall cohort (N=7,974). The most common CVD events were CHF (9.2%), MI (3.1%), and PCI (2.9%) (**Figure 1**)

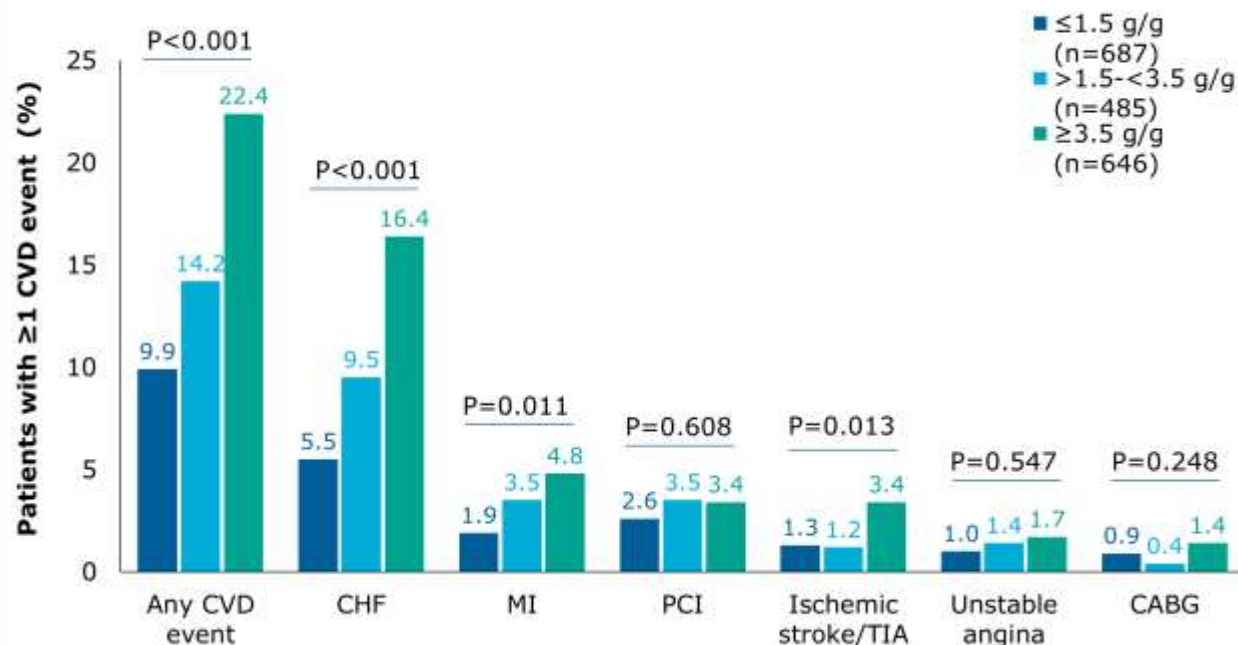


*CKD stage unknown for 19.1% of the cohort. **CABG**, coronary artery bypass graft; **CHF**, congestive heart failure; **CVD**, cardiovascular disease; **KF**, kidney failure; **MI**, myocardial infarction; **PCI**, percutaneous coronary intervention; **TIA**, transient ischemic attack

Post-index CVD events by baseline proteinuria

- Elevated baseline proteinuria was associated with a significantly higher proportion of patients experiencing ≥ 1 CVD event overall and for MI, ischemic stroke/TIA, or CHF (**Figure 2**)

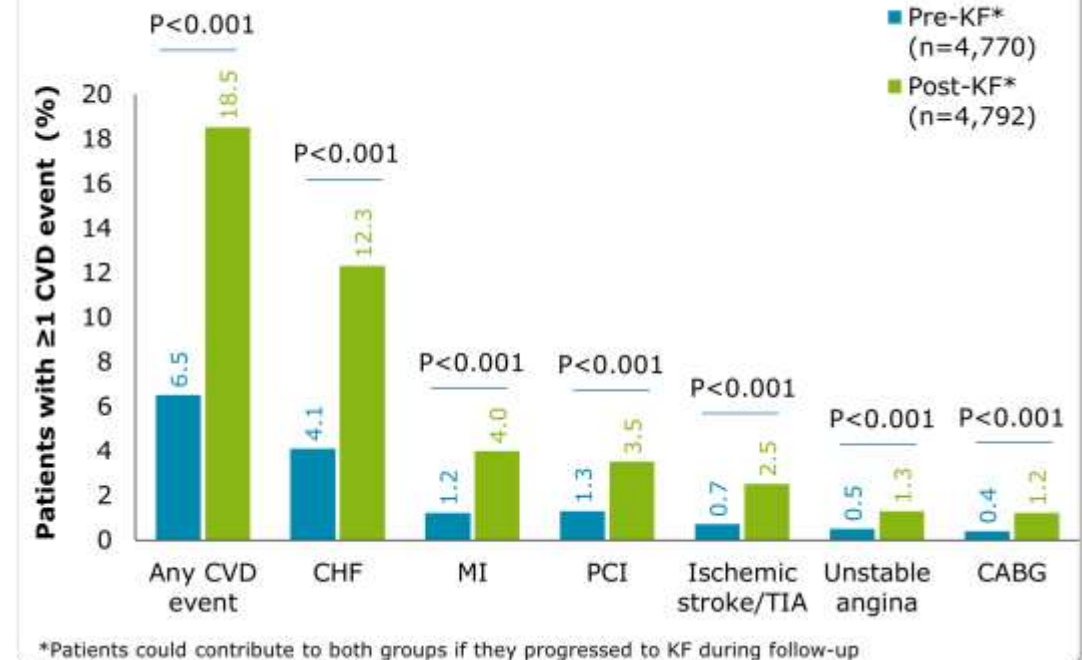
Figure 2. Patients with ≥ 1 CVD event by baseline proteinuria level



Post-index CVD events by KF status

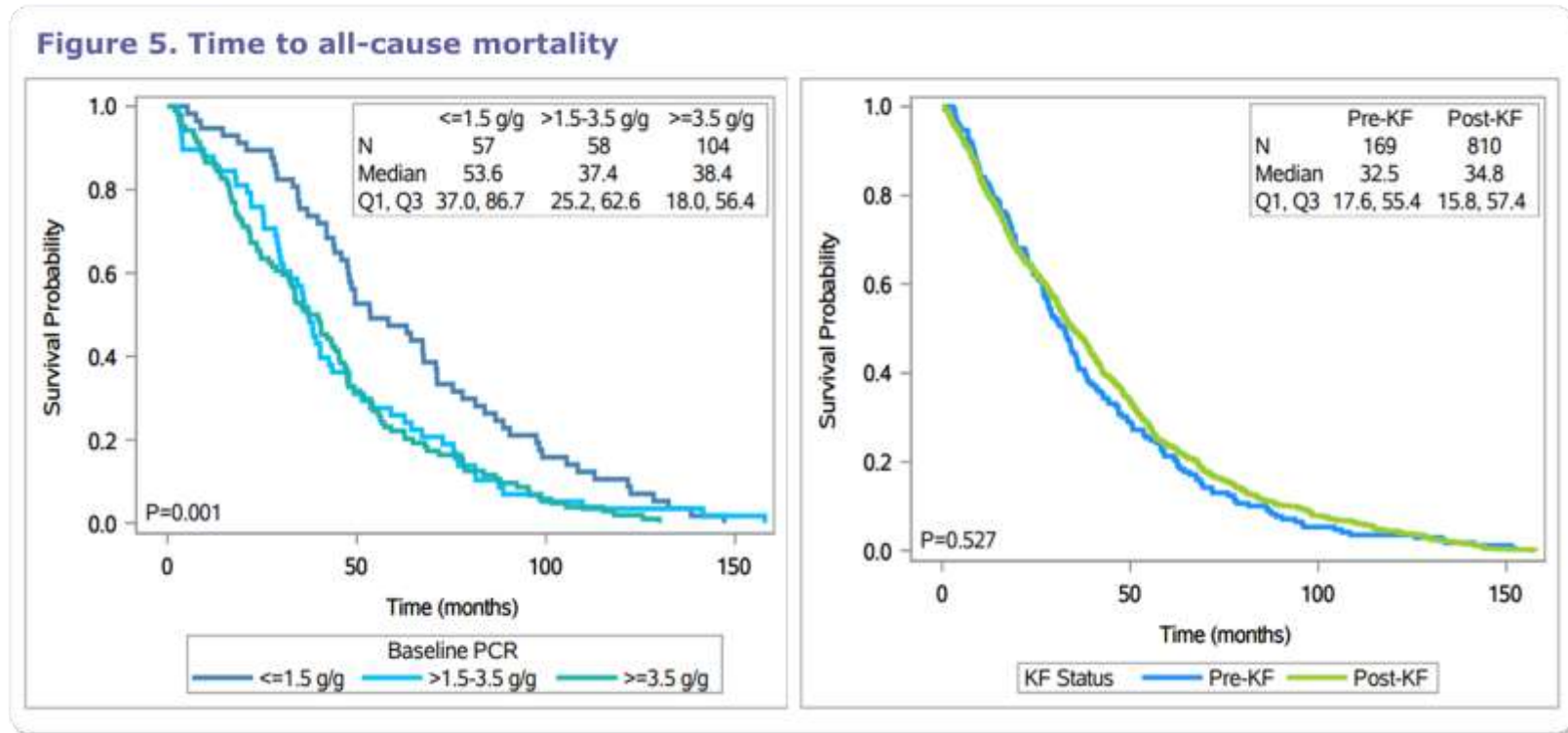
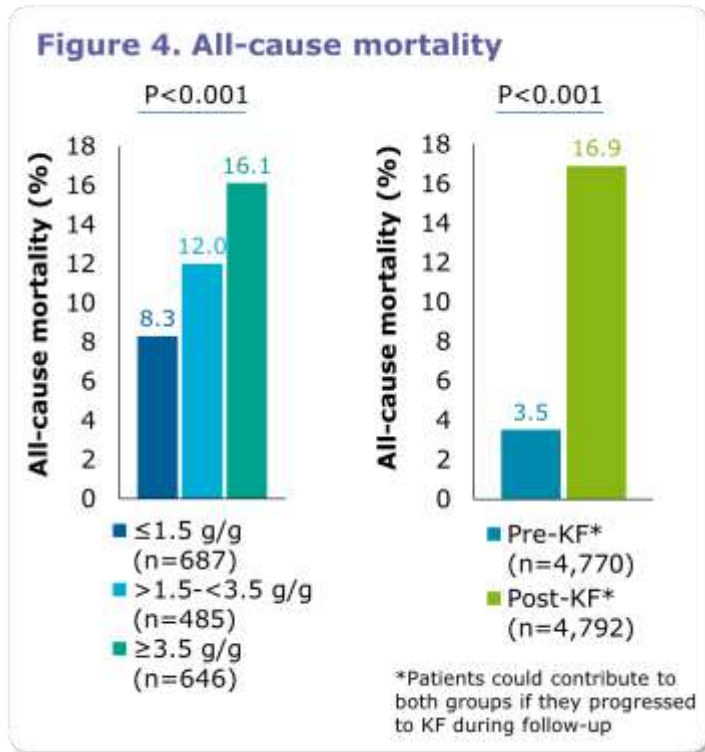
- Progression to KF was associated with a significantly higher proportion of patients ≥ 1 CVD event overall and for all individual components within our definition (**Figure 3**)

Figure 3. Patients with ≥ 1 CVD event by KF status



Post-index all-cause mortality

- Risk of all-cause mortality was significantly higher with higher levels of baseline proteinuria (≥ 3.5 g/g vs. >1.5 – <3.5 g/g vs. ≤ 1.5 g/g) or after progression to KF (**Figure 4**)
- Among patients who died, higher baseline proteinuria was associated with significantly shorter ($p=0.001$) median time to death (**Figure 5**)



- A substantial proportion of patients with FSGS experienced CVD events
- Elevated proteinuria was associated with significant increases in the proportion of patients who experienced CVD events, risk of all-cause mortality and shorter time to death among those who died
- Progression to KF was also associated with significant increases in the proportion of patients who experienced CVD events and risk of all-cause mortality

Limitations

- This study was limited to patient data in Optum[®] Market Clarity and may not be representative of the broader US population with FSGS
- Missing data or errors in detection of FSGS-related terms and codes in patient records may introduce bias into the analyses. Included patients with FSGS-related NLP terms may have more severe disease and bias the study results
- All events which occur post-KF may not have been captured because some patients transition from commercial to traditional Medicare coverage. This may cause underestimation of event rates post-KF
- Time to all-cause mortality analyses are limited by the small number of events in the baseline proteinuria stratifications

- Higher severity of proteinuria (>1.5 g/g or >3.5 g/g) was associated with a higher risk of CVD events, a higher risk of all-cause mortality and shorter time to death among those who died
- Progression to KF was associated with a higher risk of CVD events, and a higher risk of all-cause mortality
- New therapies for FSGS that reduce proteinuria and delay progression to KF may reduce CVD events and improve overall survival
- Earlier diagnosis and treatment are key to delaying disease progression and improving outcomes