

UNDERSTANDING IgA NEPHROPATHY (IgAN)



How common is IgAN?

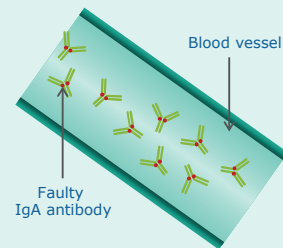
- IgAN is one of the most common glomerular forms of kidney disease, other than those caused by diabetes or high blood pressure
- Up to 40% of all primary glomerular disease in Europe is attributed to IgAN
- It affects 1 in 100,000 people in the US
- IgAN tends to occur most commonly in Caucasians & Asians
- IgAN most frequently appears when people are in their late teens to late 30s
- It is twice as likely to affect men than women in North America

What is IgA Nephropathy?

IgAN is a kidney disease caused by inflammation. Research has shown that it is caused by 4 steps:

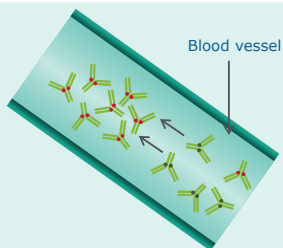
1

Immunoglobulin A (IgA) antibody is made incorrectly by the body, causing large amounts of abnormal IgA to circulate in the blood



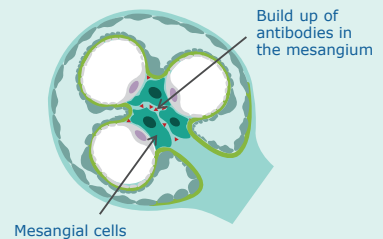
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Other antibodies are attracted to the large amounts of faulty IgA in the blood



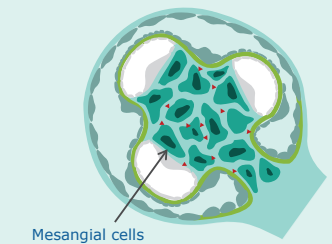
3

The antibodies stick together and recruit other immune molecules to the mesangium of the kidney



4

Mesangial cells multiply in number and produce inflammatory molecules that damage surrounding cells

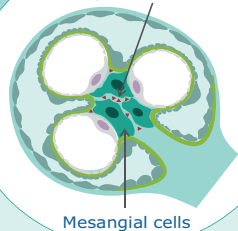


How does IgAN lead to kidney failure?

Prolonged inflammation in the “mesangium” leads to cell damage and scar tissue. The kidney cannot filter blood properly, and blood and protein leak into the urine



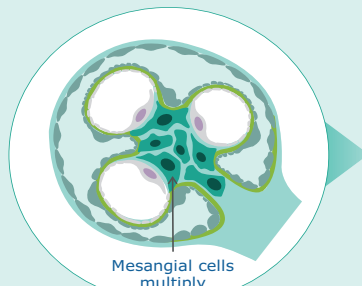
Build up of faulty antibodies



Mesangial cells

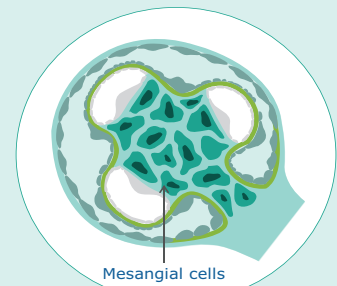
Inflammation affects blood vessels in the kidney

Mesangial cells multiply



The mesangium becomes inflamed and starts to thicken

Mesangial cells



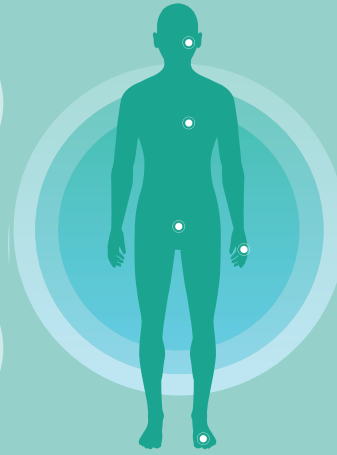
Scar tissue forms stopping the kidney from filtering properly

What Are the Most Common Symptoms of IgAN?

Urine that looks like tea or cola
Blood in the urine (hematuria)
Protein in the urine (proteinuria)



High blood pressure



Swelling in the body (edema):
Especially eyes, hands, feet, and abdomen



Low blood albumin
High cholesterol
High creatinine

How is IgAN diagnosed?



Kidney biopsy

- Biopsy means taking a small piece of tissue from the kidney. This is done to see if IgA deposits are present



Blood and urine tests

- Other blood and urine tests look at how well the kidney is working
- These include tests to measure how much protein is leaking into the urine

How is IgAN treated?

Currently, there are no medications approved specifically for the treatment of IgAN. Treatment goals are to reduce protein loss into the urine and to reduce blood pressure.

This is achieved with drugs called ACE inhibitors or ARBs. ACE inhibitors/ARBs are sometimes combined with steroids, such as prednisone. Fish oil may also be used in people who continue to have high loss of protein into their urine after 3-6 months of standard treatment.



**TALK
TO YOUR
DOCTOR**

**if you have any
questions about IgAN
or your treatment**

For more information contact:



**IGA NEPHROPATHY
FOUNDATION**
Dedicated to finding a cure.

at IgAN.org



NEPHCURE®
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at nephcure.org

For an informative video
go to:

[rarediseases.org/rarediseases/
iga-nephropathy/](http://rarediseases.org/rarediseases/iga-nephropathy/)

MA-412 May 2021
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