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Arginine vasopressin: What else does it do?

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The pressor and antidiuretic actions of arginine vasopressin (AVP) have been well documented. It is also important to focus on less widely appreciated actions of AVP. In addition to effects on hemostasis, pain, aging, social behavior and cognition, AVP has important relationships to bone metabolism and a variety of metabolic systems which involve changes that have significant effects on nephrologic outcomes. These include involvement with the hypothalamic-pituitary-axis, inflammatory responses, cell proliferation and reaction to urinary infection, as well as components of the metabolic syndrome such as diabetes mellitus, lipid metabolism and hypertension. Finally, possible direct effects of AVP on the progression of chronic kidney disease will be considered.

Biography

Michael F Michelis is Director of Nephrology at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York and Clinical Professor of Medicine at New York University School of Medicine. He received his training in renal disease at the University of Pittsburgh and was a member of the faculty there before moving to New York. He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, a Specialist in Clinical Hypertension and a Fellow of the American Society of Nephrology. He has been a principal investigator on many clinical trials and has authored numerous publications. He directed clinical studies which characterized an unrecognized genetic kidney disease now referred to as Michelis-Castrillo Syndrome.

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