Meeting the challenge of diabetic kidney disease

Healthcare professionals have an important role to play in focusing more attention on diabetic kidney disease, by implementing new interventions and educating their patients, says Dr Andrew Frankel.

Dr Andrew Frankel is a consultant nephrologist at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust. He has a particular interest in the management of diabetes in the presence of kidney disease and has played a significant role in the development of national guidelines in this area. Dr Frankel has also carried out extensive research on how diabetes affects the kidneys and on how kidney disease can affect the management of diabetes.

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A starting point would be that the healthcare community works to ensure that every individual with diabetes is empowered to ask questions and know about their kidney function, as determined by their eGFR and albuminuria status. When describing eGFR to patients, I use a simplistic term of global kidney function, with 100% representing a broad figure for what would be expected in a fit young adult and give them their results as a percentage of this global kidney function.

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A patient-centred approach

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