

# Triple drug combo benefits lupus nephritis

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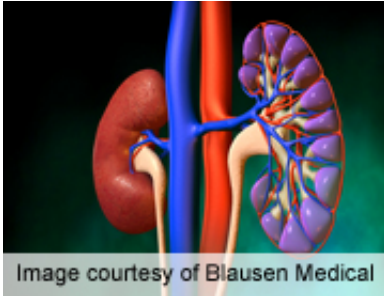


Image courtesy of Blausen Medical

(HealthDay)—In a trial of 368 Chinese patients with lupus nephritis, those who were given a trio of medications were more likely to see a complete remission. The researchers, led by Zhihong Liu, M.D., of the Nanjing University School of Medicine in China, reported the findings online Nov. 11 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Liu's team randomly assigned patients with [lupus nephritis](#) to one of two groups: One received monthly infusions of cyclophosphamide, plus oral steroid medication; the other received [oral steroids](#), along with two immune-suppressing medications—mycophenolate mofetil and tacrolimus.

After six months, 45.9 percent of patients on the drug trio were in complete remission, and 83.5 percent had at least a partial response. In contrast, 25.6 percent of patients on cyclophosphamide were in complete remission. And 63.0 percent had at least a partial response.

"Multitarget therapy provides superior efficacy compared with intravenous cyclophosphamide as induction therapy for lupus nephritis," the authors write.

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