Mechanisms and Meaning of Thick Glomerular Basement Membranes

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Abstract

This talk will review the composition, normal thickness and means of measurement of glomerular basement membranes (GBMs). Etiologies, mechanisms and appearances of GBM thickening in a variety of settings, including diabetic nephropathy, obesity, smoking, nephropenia, hypertension and aging, will be discussed. Lastly, GBM reactions to mechanisms of thickening and the clinical significance of thickened GBMs will be examined.