

**Harvard Medical School Department of
Continuing Education and the Renal Division
of Brigham and Women's Hospital**



Nephrology Rounds
June/July 2007

**Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis:
What Nephrologists Need to Know**

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Objectives

This issue of *Nephrology Rounds* will help the reader to understand:

- the typical clinical presentation of nephrogenic systemic fibrosis (NSF)
- the differential diagnosis of fibrosing disorders
- the typical work-up required for fibrosing conditions
- how exposure to gadolinium-containing contrast agents might predispose to the development of NSF.

Questions:

1. NSF only afflicts patients with chronic renal impairment.

True False

2. NSF has been described ever since patients started dialysis therapy for end-stage renal disease.

True False

3. NSF has been described in patients regardless of age, gender, or race.

True False

4. Full-thickness skin biopsy is required to diagnose NSF.

True False

5. Skin biopsy can easily distinguish NSF from other fibrosing conditions such as scleromyxedema.

True False

6. NSF can be distinguished from scleroderma based on distribution of involvement and serologic analysis.

True False

7. Treatment of NSF is well-established and involves corticosteroids and cyclophosphamide.

True False

8. Skin changes associated with NSF typically involve the lower extremities first, followed by the upper extremities and occasionally the torso, but exclude the face.

True False

9. NSF has only been reported in patients who have received dialysis therapy for renal failure.

True False

10. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has established a website for practitioners to report suspected cases of NSF.

True False

To receive AMA category 1 credit, you must correctly answer 60% of the test questions.

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This program was issued in June/July 2007. All tests must be returned by November 30, 2007.

Please send completed test and a check for \$25 U.S. (Check made payable to Harvard Medical School) to: Harvard Medical School/Department of Continuing Education, Box 825, Boston, MA 02117-825.

Please keep a copy of your test before submission. A certificate will be sent upon successful completion of the test along with the answer key after the deadline date indicated.

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