

You & Your Health

A Black Perspective Renal Failure

Second Of A Series

The person seen with renal failure or renal disease may have one of a wide variety of renal or kidney failure; acute and chronic acute renal failure is a sudden and almost complete loss of kidney function caused by failure of the renal circulation or damage to the kidney or parts of the kidney. The substances normally eliminated in the urine accumulate in the body fluids. Some precipitating factors include shock, trauma or injury, dehydration, hypersensitivity or allergic disorders, kidney stone, toxic or poison agents or mismatched blood transfusion.

Chronic renal failure is a progressive deterioration in renal or kidney function which ends fatally in uremia (an excess of urea and other nitrogenous wastes in the blood) and its complications (unless dialysis or a kidney transplant is done). Some causes here include urinary tract obstruction and infection, hypertension or high blood pressure, toxic agents (poisonous to kidney cells), etc.

Let us take a look at one of the major causes of



Brenda Kennedy, BSN

renal failure - hypertension. We have already discussed the greater incidences and prevalence of hypertension among Blacks which also means that this increases the incidence of renal failure among Blacks. Hypertension, untreated for lengths of time, can cause chronic renal failure. This is another reason why it is very important for Blacks to have frequent blood pressure checks if the inci-

dence is high in your family and if you are overweight. And it is also important to adhere to diets and medications prescribed by your physician. Not only can hypertension cause chronic renal failure, but with renal disease we see hypertension as one of the problems that occur with these persons. So it is especially important for Blacks to be aware of the relationship of hypertension or high blood pressure and renal or kidney failure.

Some problems seen with acute renal failure are decrease in urine output, high levels of elements in the blood that should be removed by the kidneys, maybe some blood in the urine, nausea, sleepiness, etc.

Charley Pride To Co-Host

"Country Music Awards"

Charley Pride, who will co-host the 15th annual "Academy of Country Music Awards" special, airing "live" on NBC-TV, May 1, 9-11 p.m. (Eastern time), is a major leaguer in every sense of the word.

Who would have guessed 14 years ago that talented young Black singer from Sledge, Mississippi would become one of the most influential country music artists of our time? Since that fateful day in the mid-'60s when Red Sovine and the late Red Foley heard Charley belt out "Lovesick Blues" and suggested he head for Nashville, Pride has released 36 albums, 12 of which have been certified gold. He has a steady stream of chart-topping hits, including the million-seller "Kiss An Angel Good Morning," and has won two Grammy awards.

But, at the age of 17, Charley made a bid for what had been his first love - baseball. He played in the Negro American League with Detroit and the Memphis Red Sox

until his career was interrupted by a military stint. Upon returning he made it to the major leagues for a brief period in 1961, playing outfield and pitching for the Los Angeles Angels. And his love for baseball has not diminished, as he goes to spring training with the Texas Rangers every year.

His co-hosting of the Academy of Country Music Awards special reunites Charley with longtime friend Dick Clark, the executive producer of the special. How does Clark feel about Charley?

"There are very few people who

make it to the majors in just one field. Charley has done it in three - baseball, music and most importantly, as a person. Charley is truly a major leaguer.

"The Jeffersons"

Peering through Bentley's telescope on Halloween night, Louise witnesses what she thinks is a murder being committed by a giant rabbit, in the first part of a two-part episode to be rebroadcast on "The Jeffersons," Sunday, April 27 at 9:30 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

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