

Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis (FSGS)

What is focal segmental glomerulosclerosis?

Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (commonly abbreviated as **FSGS**) is a kidney disease. It is one of the most common causes of protein in the urine (proteinuria).

What are the signs and symptoms of FSGS?

The most common signs and symptoms of FSGS are:

- Protein in the urine (**proteinuria**)
- Swelling of the feet and legs in some patients (**edema**)
- High blood pressure in some patients (**hypertension**)

What causes FSGS?

Most cases of FSGS have no known cause.

In some cases, FSGS may be genetic and may affect multiple family members.

Other known causes of FSGS include:

- Medications and illicit drugs
- Viral infections
- Obesity
- Smaller than normal kidneys

How is FSGS diagnosed?

A **kidney biopsy** is the only way to diagnose FSGS because several other kidney diseases produce similar symptoms and laboratory abnormalities.

Why is it important to diagnose FSGS?

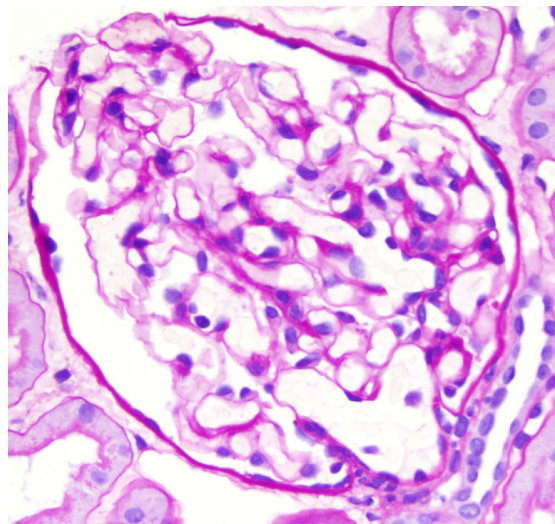
- Many kidney diseases cause proteinuria but may differ in treatment from FSGS
- A diagnosis of FSGS may allow your doctor to identify the cause in your case

Is additional testing necessary?

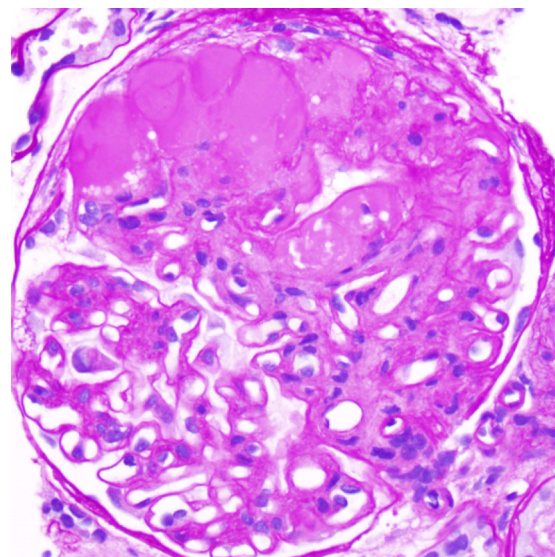
Patients with FSGS may have a genetic cause which can be diagnosed by **genetic testing** on the kidney biopsy or with a blood test.

What happens to a patient with FSGS?

- Some patients will respond to treatment
- Some patients will have proteinuria for many years
- Some patients develop renal failure and require dialysis or kidney transplantation



Normal glomerulus



FSGS glomerulus