

# 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?

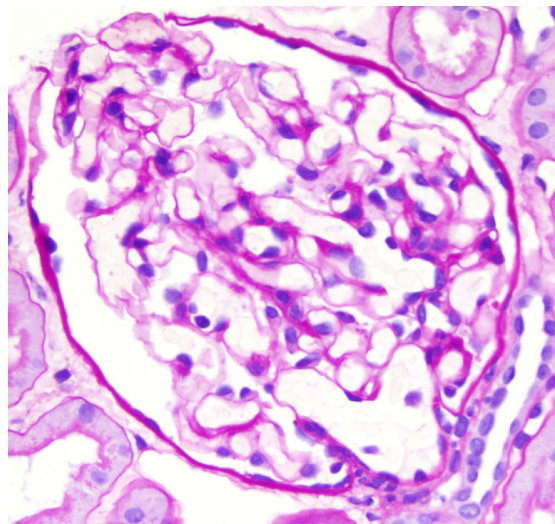
- Many kidney diseases cause proteinuria but may differ in treatment from FSGS
- A diagnosis of FSGS may allow your doctor to identify the cause in your case

## Is additional testing necessary?

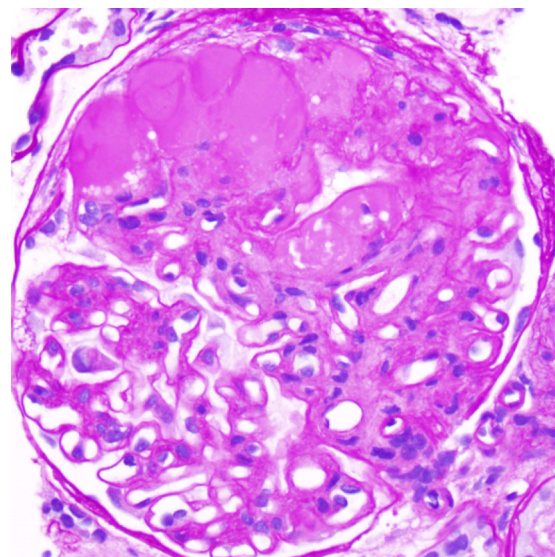
Patients with FSGS may have a genetic cause which can be diagnosed by **genetic testing** on the kidney biopsy or with a blood test.

## 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