Vanrafia® (atrasentan) – New drug approval

- On April 3, 2025, Novartis announced the FDA approval of Vanrafia (atrasentan), to **reduce proteinuria in adults with primary immunoglobulin A nephropathy (IgAN) at risk of rapid disease progression, generally a urine protein-to-creatinine ratio (UPCR) ≥ 1.5 g/g**.
    - **This indication is approved under accelerated approval based on a reduction of proteinuria**. It has not been established whether Vanrafia slows kidney function decline in patients with IgAN. Continued approval for this indication may be contingent upon verification and description of clinical benefit in a confirmatory clinical trial.
- IgAN is a progressive, autoimmune kidney disease, often causing glomerular inflammation and proteinuria. About 13 out of every million people in the U.S. are diagnosed annually.
- Vanrafia is an endothelin type A (ET_A) receptor antagonist.
- The efficacy of Vanrafia was established in ALIGN, a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study in adults with IgAN on a stable dose of maximally tolerated renin angiotensin system inhibitor. Patients were randomized to receive either Vanrafia or placebo. The efficacy analysis included 270 patients who reached the week 36 visit. The primary endpoint was the percent reduction in UPCR at week 36 relative to baseline.
    - The percent reduction in UPCR at week 36 relative to baseline was 38% with Vanrafia vs. 3% with placebo (relative reduction 36%, 95% CI: 26, 45, $p < 0.0001$).
- Vanrafia carries a boxed warning for embryo-fetal toxicity.
- Vanrafia is contraindicated in patients:
    - Who are pregnant
    - With a history of a hypersensitivity reaction to atrasentan or any component of the product.
- Additional warnings and precautions for Vanrafia include hepatotoxicity, fluid retention, and decreased sperm counts.
- The most common adverse reactions (≥ 5%) with Vanrafia use were peripheral edema and anemia.
- The recommended dose of Vanrafia is **0.75 mg administered orally once daily** with or without food.
- Novartis' launch plans for Vanrafia are pending. Vanrafia will be available as a 0.75 mg tablet.