Monocyte chemoattractant protein 1 (MCP1) is produced by macrophages, vascular endothelial cells and fibroblasts and it acts recruiting blood mononuclear cells to sites of inflammation. Its dosage in urine has been shown to be a valuable tool in detecting kidney inflammation. MCP1 was demonstrated as capable in helping to follow lupus nephritis activity (Watson et al., 2012), progression of diabetic nephropathy (Shaker & Sadik, 2013), but not a good predictor for long-term kidney disease outcome in patients with idiopathic glomerulonephritis (Tofik et al., 2014).

Past articles of this group have already focused kidney abnormalities in leprosy patients, with almost one thousand patients evaluated (Daher et al., 2011). In the present work, the authors measure kidney oxidative and inflammatory status in leprosy patients, all of which had no criteria for the diagnosis of kidney disease. Nonetheless, higher MCP1 levels were found before any treatment in comparison to controls. A question still remains: if chronic levels of this proinflammatory and profibrotic chemokine could contribute to idiopathic kidney disease after many years of follow up.

The limitations of the cross-sectional design of the study are clearly stated. The writing is acceptable as well as the title and abstract.

Discretionary Revision

If leprosy is not known as a main cause of chronic kidney disease, what would be the importance of these higher MCP1 levels in leprosy patients? Recently and very unexpectedly MCP1 urine levels were not able to predict long-term outcome in patients with idiopathic chronic glomerulonephritis (Tofik et al., 2014). Anyway, it is an interesting point as chronic inflammatory state could accelerate kidney dysfunction over time.

No duplication of the present work was found in literature.


**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.