Reviewer's report

Title: Anti-glomerular basement membrane glomerulonephritis and thrombotic microangiopathy in first degree relatives; a case report

Version: 1 Date: 15 May 2012

Reviewer: Karl Lhotta

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting report of two rare renal diseases occurring in the same family. Although the authors tried their best to identify a possible link in the pathogenesis of the two diseases, the overall result of this effort is rather inconclusive. This fact is correctly stated in the abstract and in the discussion.

Major compulsory revisions

The report does not contain information on the C3 levels of the patients. C3 is frequently reduced in aHUS, and low levels would strengthen this diagnosis.

One possible explanation is that the daughter also had an autoantibody-mediated disease. Unfortunately anti ADAMTS13 antibodies were not determined at time of acute illness. Anti factor H antibodies should also be considered as a possibility.

A family tree would be helpful. Were there signs of kidney disease in other family members?

Did the two patients live in the same household? Could there be a common environmental factor such as exposure to a toxin?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.