Reviewer's report

Title: Chronic kidney disease, severe renal vascular involvement and two distinct kidney neoplasias: on the spectrum of kidney involvement in MELAS syndrome.

Version: 1 Date: 3 October 2011

Reviewer: Lucia Del Vecchio

Reviewer's report:

The case report is interesting, since little is known about kidney involvement in MELAS syndrome.

I suggest the following clarifications:

1) please discuss that given that histological picture was taken before proteinuria development it is possible, (even if unlikely) that another glomerulonephritis occurred

2) electron microscopy analysis was not made. This should be written as a possible limitation of this case report (no data about podocytes status)

3) please give a better description of the histological picture in the text. How many glomeruli were analysed? in which percentage had they global sclerosis? In which percentage was focal segmental sclerosis? in the end, had the patient enough criteria to fulfill a histological diagnosis of focal segmental glomerulosclerosis?

4) please specify that the patient developed type 2 diabetes.

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'