Reviewer’s report

Title: Identical twins: one with anti-glomerular basement membrane glomerulonephritis and the other with systemic lupus erythematosus

Version: 2 Date: 10 April 2013

Reviewer: Zhao Cui

Reviewer’s report:

It is of clinical and pathogenetic interest that the authors presented twins with anti-GBM disease and SLE separately.

Major compulsory revisions:
1. For the first case of anti-GBM disease, since renal biopsy was not performed, the diagnosis of disease depended on the serology test alone. The detection method and result should be described in more detail with fluorescent figure shown up, aiming to make the disease diagnosis more reliable.
2. For the second case with SLE, the medical history is too simple. The photos of malar erythema should be shown in the case report. Was any other system affected on the time of admission, except hematologic and renal system? During the follow up for more than 2 years, did she undergo the remission and relapse course of SLE? What were her clinical features and treatment during this period? Did she get renal involvement later on and was there any biopsy performed to her? How about the immunological system? Did she present anti-dsDNA antibodies and lower complement during the disease course? Since the coexistence of SLE and anti-GBM disease has been reported, did this case present anti-GBM disease as well?
3. The authors mentioned that the environment may be the reason for the twins to have different types of autoimmune disease. It should be discussed further. Did they live in the same environment? Have the common environmental etiologies for anti-GBM disease and SLE been detected for them? What are the results and the suggestion?

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.