Reviewer's report

Title: Serum levels and renal deposition of C1q complement component and its antibodies reflect disease activity of lupus nephritis

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Reviewer: Zofia Niemir

Reviewer's report:

The authors of this paper have tried to prove that serum levels of C1q and anti-C1q antibodies together with renal deposition of C1q reflect the activity of lupus nephritis (LN). Although this topic is very interesting, the paper cannot be accepted in its present form.

Major revisions.

First of all, the cut-off points for the detection of C1q and anti-C1q antibodies have not been provided. Secondly, it would be much easier to read the paper when the obtained data were organized into tables and/or figures comparing the patients with low and normal levels of C1q, as well as anti-C1q antibodies positive and negative. Apart from this, the authors try to convince a reader that the presence of anti-C1q antibodies was associated with the intensity of glomerular deposition of C1q. However, the data supporting this point of view are lacking. Namely, the authors provide the number of patients with vascular and glomerular C1q deposits, but they did not give the numbers of those with glomerular C1q deposits simultaneously positive or not for anti-C1q antibodies.

Minor revisions.

It would be advisable for the authors to get in touch with a native speaker to correct the grammatical and spelling mistakes in the paper.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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