Reviewer's report

Title: Poor histological lesions in IgA nephropathy may be reflected in blood and urine peptide profiling

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Reviewer: Muhammed Mubarak

Reviewer's report:

The authors present the results of a prospective study on proteomic analysis of biofluids in 19 patients with IgA nephropathy (IgAN) and correlate peptide levels with the clinical, laboratory and morphological features identified as prognostically important in Oxford Classification of IgAN. This is quite a novel idea and has not been reported in the literature till date. The authors conclude that proteomic analysis of biofluids in IgAN patients may prove useful as non-invasive test for the diagnosis and prognosis. The study results are interesting. However, there are some minor points which need to be addressed before the manuscript may be accepted for publication. These are:

1. A standardized approach to abbreviations should be used. For example, following use of IgAN for IgA nephropathy initially in the manuscript, only IgAN should be used at all places. There are several places in introduction where full term is used again and again. Same applies to abbreviation of ESRD in the beginning of Introduction, but the full term is used again in discussion etc. Others include GKD.

2. Other abbreviations appear with out first fully spelling them out, eg. ACEi, ARBs, etc.

3. Abstract: Methods: Line 2, remove “to” before 2006. Results: Tubulointerstitial area should be changed to “tubulointerstitial damage.” Glomerulosclerosis should be qualified as segmental glomerulosclerosis.

4. Main text: Results: The age of healthy subjects is given as mean, while in statistical section, it is mentioned that median with range is given.

5. Table 1. Caption- remove “and healthy subjects.” as there is no information about controls in this table.

6. Table 2. Change the caption of the table to “Scores of histological lesions -----“. Give abbreviations for IFTA. “Score mesangial” should be changed to “mesangial hypercellularity score.”

7. Table 3. Caption: between “double of creatinine” may be changed to “doubling of serum creatinine”

8. Additional table 2. What are the units of the values of different peptides?

9. Figure legends: Figure 2 legend: remove “mesangial proliferation”

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:

No competing interests on this manuscript.