Reviewer's report

**Title:** Urinary kidney injury molecule-1 is related to pathologic involvement in IgA nephropathy with normotension, normal renal function and mild proteinuria

**Version:** 1  
**Date:** 21 April 2014

**Reviewer:** Andrea Kramer

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Xu and Wei et al perform an interesting study to detect the value of urinary KIM-1 in patients with IgA nephropathy with a clinical good prognosis based on proteinuria less than 1 gram/24 hours.

They showed that tubuli-interstitial damage was more severe and the presence of fibrous crescents was increased in patients with higher urinary KIM-1 levels. In this small group of patients with mild disease urinary KIM-1 could not predict outcome, however, it is known that more severe tubuli-interstitial damage predicts worse outcome. The study was well performed, and adds additional evidence to the knowledge of urinary KIM-1.

**Major compulsory revisions**

In the discussion at p 12 last sentence of first alinea: the authors mention that expression of KIM-1 was not only influenced by damage of tubuli and interstitium but also by damage of glomeruli.

=> I suggest to mention that the tubulointerstitial damage is due to reabsorption of protein which is on his turn due to glomerulare damage according to the IgA nephropathy. So urinary KIM-1 is a marker of the disease activity, however when extremely damaged tubuli interstitium, KIM-1 will disappear again..

**Minor essential revisions:**

Reference 20 at p 11 bottom of page=> please check if this is right
- Some typo's
  p11 2nd sentence patients in stead of patient
  p13 first sentence ischemic in stead of ischemia, same sentence tubules and interstitium in stead of tubules/interstitium and gomerular in stead of glomeruli damage

**Figure Legends**
- I suggest to rename figure 2 A and B in for all patients with IgA in this study and C and D for the subgroup of patients with proteinuria 0.5-1 gram/24hours

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests