Reviewer's report

**Title:** Transplantation of Endothelial Progenitor Cells in Treating Rats with IgA Nephropathy

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**Reviewer:** Laureline Berthelot

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors treated rats with IgA nephropathy by transplantation of endothelial progenitor cells. Their results showed improvement of kidney function, peritubular capillary, decreased extracellular matrix expansion and decreased inflammation.

- **Major Compulsory Revisions**

  The authors claims that transplantation of endothelial progenitor cells treats rat IgA nephropathy, but they did not show IgA deposits after transplantation. I expect that there is no change in term of IgA deposits and IgA serum levels after transplantation. These results must be added to the article. Moreover, the authors must moderate their conclusion, this transplantation attenuate renal injury in IgA nephropathy but not IgA deposits. So, they must change their title and modify the discussion part. This treatment could be useful in addition to other therapies.

  After transplantation of endothelial progenitor cells, these cells were nicely located in kidney. Are other organs infiltrated by these cells? It is very important to know if these cells migrate only in organ with injury or in the entire body. The authors must add liver or lung histological analysis.

  The authors did not precise when we inject the cells: is it preventive or curative intervention? At the onset of IgA nephropathy induction? This information can also change the conclusion.

- **Minor Essential Revisions**

  The sentence of the conclusion of the abstract: “The BM-EPCs transplantation significantly decreases the deposits of glomerular extracellular matrix” is wrong. It is not “deposits” but expansion. The matrix was present here before the induction of IgA nephropathy.

  In the subjects and methods section, in the animal part, the sentence: “the renal tissue biopsy was performed by HE and immunofluorescence staining” does not make sense. Is must be replaced by: HA and immunofluorescence staining were performed on renal tissue biopsy. The authors must also precise if it is frozen section or embedded in paraffin.

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

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.