Reviewer's report

Title: A case of podocytic infolding glomerulopathy associated with multiple myeloma

Version: 2 Date: 19 November 2013

Reviewer: Eugenia Papakrivopoulou

Reviewer's report:

Harada et al., report a case of podocytic infolding glomerulopathy (PIG) in a patient with a new diagnosis of multiple myeloma. The case is well written and clear. I have however the following major reservations:

1. PIG has not been described anywhere other than Japan. The original paper describing these glomerular changes by Joh et al, is a review of 25 cases in Japan published in 2008. Since then, a series of case studies from Japan have described similar changes in glomeruli but no further characterisation or exploration of the possible underlying pathology has been described by any of the authors of the original review. Is this truly a new disease?

2. This case also does not add anything new to our understanding of this possible new glomerular disease. The authors suggest that complement overactivity could be responsible. Immunohistochemical evidence of that, e.g in the form of staining for C4d, would be a useful addition and strengthen the suggestion that complement has a role in this.

3. Podocyte foot process effacement and formation of microvilli are features of podocyte injury irrespective of the insult. It is not clear in the discussion if the authors are suggesting these are features of PIG.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

None