Reviewer's report

Title: Properdin has an ascendancy over factor H regulation in complement-mediated renal tubular damage

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Reviewer: Michael Robson

Reviewer's report:

In this paper, the presence of complement components in the urine of patients with proteinuric renal disease is studied, and in vitro experiments look at complement deposition on a proximal tubule cell line. Properdin (used at physiological concentrations) increases C3 and MAC deposition due to NHS, and also increased C3 but not MAC deposition when added to properdin depleted serum.

Major compulsory revisions.

Some clinical details of the patients should be included. A breakdown of the diseases, and age/sex relative to controls for example.

The authors state in the text that adding properdin to 5% PDS in 7(d) increases MAC deposition. It does not as there is no significant difference. It is either statistically significant or not. If the authors wish to suggest a trend, they could include a precise p value.

Why is there data for 5% and 25% NHS but only 5% PDS? Data for 25% PDS should be added for completeness, as it looks like it may not have fitted in otherwise.

The authors state in the text (last paragraph) that serum decreases PTEC viability. It doesn’t – the data in figure 8 show no effect, and only a decrease when properdin is added to NHS. This is entirely in keeping with no effect on the morphology shown in figure 1. In fact the pictures in figure 1 should be moved and included with figure 8. We should also be shown what the morphology is when viability is down with added properdin.

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:
I declare that I have no competing interests