Reviewer’s report

Title: A novel differential diagnostic model based on multiple biological parameters for immunoglobulin A nephropathy

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Reviewer: Yasunori Utsunomiya

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The paper demonstrates the models possessing potential clinical application perspective for discriminating IgA nephropathy from other primary kidney diseases. This is an important and required study in patients with IgA nephropathy in clinical practice. However, there are several points in which should be delineated in more detail.

Major Comments:

1. The definition of non-IgA nephropathy group is unclear. Does this group include focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS), or postinfectious glomerulonephritis, etc? The kidney diseases recruited in non-IgAN group should be delineated in more detail.

2. The biochemical indicators in this study may be mainly affected by the difference of clinical manifestation between two groups, especially different incidence of nephrotic syndrome and chronic renal function. Therefore, to explore these effects, biochemical parameters should be evaluated in comparable clinical manifestations. The specificity of the biochemical indicators for IgA nephropathy should be clarified.

3. Do the biochemical indicators show statistical correlation with levels of renal function or urinary protein excretion in patients with IgA nephropathy?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.