Reviewer’s report

Title: The Impact of IgM Deposits on the Outcome of Nephrotic Syndrome in Children

Version: 0 Date: 14 Dec 2016

Reviewer: Guido Filler

Reviewer’s report:

Please introduce every abbreviation in the abstract and in the text first before using the abbreviation.

It is unclear how the patients were identified.

A control group would be good, namely all of the patients who presented with childhood nephrotic syndrome during the same study period but did not receive a renal biopsy.

As this is a retrospective cohort study, consider reporting the findings as per the STROBE criteria.

Page 3, line 69: Be specific. Define nephrotic range proteinuria, hypoalbuminaemia (e.g. < 25 g/L), and consider omitting oedema and hyperlipidaemia, as these are not mandatory for the definition of nephrotic syndrome. Hyperlipidaemia can be defined, oedema is challenging to define.

Page 4, line 77: Do you have a better definition for IgM positivity?

Page 4, line 80: Provide the reference for the Fourth Report. It is presumed that you used those reference intervals.

Page 4, line 84: It is important to note if serum creatinine was IDMS traceable. If so, you must use the latest improved Schwartz formula: Schwartz GJ, Schneider MF, Maier PS, et al. Improved equations estimating GFR in children with chronic kidney disease using an immunonephelometric determination of cystatin C. Kidney Int. Aug 2012;82(4):445-453.

Page 5, line 96: How was "persistent proteinuria" assessed. Please provide a clear definition.

Page 5, line 109: How many patients were diagnosed with childhood nephrotic syndrome during the study period. What were the criteria for renal biopsy. How many were not biopsied. This is important as the reader wants to assess the selection bias due to the inclusion of biopsied cases only. The time from diagnosis to biopsy should also be noted.

Page 7, table 2: Please provide the cumulative steroid dose at the time of assessment. Also, your cyclophosphamide spelling is unusual. Were the cyclosporine or MPA levels different?
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal