Reviewer’s report

Title: The impact of intravenous methylprednisolone pulses on renal survival in anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody associated vasculitis with severe renal injury patients: a retrospective study

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Reviewer: Mathieu Legendre

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editor and authors, thank you for giving me the opportunity and pleasure to review this manuscript, nicely written and interesting, describing data regarding methyl-prednisolone pulses in ANCA associated vasculitis. Below, you can find my suggestions:

Introduction:

well written, no comments

Methods:

page 5: The use of plasma exchange is not specified. I suppose that none of them underwent this procedure.

Page 5: were there concomitant glomerular damage patterns? Any vascular pathology? This is of importance, since these lesions can be associated with a worse renal outcome (for instance hypertensive nephropathy)

Results:

page 7: The immune suppressive treatment within the two groups are not described nor compared. This is of importance since it could be a major bias (mycophenolate mofetil? intravenous cyclophosphamide? plasma exchange?)

page 7: The number of biopsie in the control group biopsy is limited and is a limitation.
page 9: Table 2: it seems difficult to compare the outcomes since the follow-up duration are very scattered. Maybe a comparison at one or two years could be interesting. Median serum creatinine levels and eGFR at the end of follow-up (and maybe at one and two years of follow-up) should be in Table 2.

page 13: Table 4: The median standard prednisone dose are not described nor the use of cyclophosphamide/mycophenolate mofetil (dose?) (plasma exchange?)

Discussion: The MEPEX trial supports the use of plasma exchange rather than plasma exchange in the treatment of ANCA-associated vasculitis that presents with renal failure. The use of plasma exchange is not discussed in this article. It is of importance because it seems to be a treatment of first choice among patients with severe AKD.

Well written. The limitations could be addressed, see the abovementioned suggestions.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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

Yes

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
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