Reviewer's report

Title: Predominant but Silent C1q Deposits in Mesangium on Transplanted Kidneys - Long-Term Observational Study -

Version: 0  Date: 01 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Anthony M. Valeri

Reviewer's report:
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This paper reports a small number (5) of renal transplant recipients found to have C1q nephropathy on renal allograft biopsy and their long term outcome.

It would be helpful to know on each patient:
(1) a quantitation of the amount of proteinuria (a spot urinary protein-to-creatinine ratio or a 24-hour urine collection for total protein)
(2) what was the timing of the prior biopsy that did not show C1q deposition in relation to the time from transplant and to the follow-up biopsy that showed C1q deposition
(3) likewise, did the patient have a follow-up biopsy that showed resolution of the C1q deposition and the timing relative to the index biopsy showing C1q deposition
(4) were the biopsies stained for C4d especially in the peri-tubular capillaries to suggest a related acute or chronic antibody-mediated rejection (AMR)
(5) did any of these patients have AMR previously or afterwards

The discussion should focus on the concept that C1q deposition may be just a coincidental finding with no pathologic significance, especially in view of the fact that it was often discovered
on a routine protocol biopsy in the absence of proteinuria, urinary sediment abnormalities or renal allograft dysfunction and that it had no significant bearing on the long term outcome

**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.
Yes

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

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