Title: IgG4-related kidney disease (IgG4-RKD) with membranous nephropathy as its initial manifestation: report of one case and literature review

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Reviewer: Abhilash Koratala

Reviewer's report:

In this interesting case report, Dr Zhang and colleagues report a case of possible IgG4-related kidney disease initially presenting as isolated membranous nephropathy without interstitial involvement.

I have a few questions/concerns.

- Was 'tissue' PLA2R testing done? It's important to test for both serum and tissue antibodies.
- Serum PLA2R testing was negative both times. At initial presentation, what made you treat the disease in the lines of 'primary' membranous GN with immunosuppressive therapy? If you did think it was primary MN at that time, why didn't you wait for spontaneous remission according to current standard? Was the patient prescribed ACEI/ARB therapy?
- Was lacrimal gland biopsy done? Or was there any laboratory or pathologic 'evidence' of other organ involvement from IgG4 disease?
- Please describe the treatment regimen/dosage briefly (both occurrences)
- Was Rituximab considered at any point in the course of the disease? If not, is there any evidence suggesting cyclophosphamide is better than rituximab in IgG4-related kidney disease?
- In figure 1, suggest showing a high power light microscopy image focusing on the glomerulus (e.g. Figure 1D)
- Figure 1: EM picture is not clear as well. Consider showing the deposits and foot process fusion using arrows/asterisks etc.
- Figure 2: As the finding of IgG4-positive plasma cells is important here, consider high power view of immunohistochemistry (2G, 2H) focusing on the tubulointerstitium.
- Figure 2: Label the key findings in the EM image.

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.

No

**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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

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