

# **Nephrotic Syndrome in a Chronically Infected Patient**

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# Case presentation

- A 37 y/o paraplegic male referred due to severe generalized edema and oliguria from 15 days ago and proteinuria from 1 month ago.
- PMH: paraplegia due to spinal cord injury after falling, from 12 yrs. ago with intermittent urinary catheterization. Several buttock pressure ulcers from 4 yrs. ago.
- Admission to Emam mousa kazem Hospital one week ago due to bed sore and had proteinuria 4+, Cr=1.3-1.5, K= 5.9.
- No other problem.

# Case presentation..

- **SH:** smoking 1 py, no alcohol. DH: c-lax, alprazolam,
- **FH:** father ESRD on HD, is died.
- **PE:** BP=135/70, T=36, RR=18, PR= 82, O2 Sat=97 % in room air.  
4+ pitting edema in lower ex. and scrotum with plasma leakage.
- 3 pressure sore in buttock one was very deep, atrophic muscles in lower ex.

# Case presentation...

## Lab Tests

|              |                  |                  |              |                    |   |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------|---|
| <b>Cr</b>    | <b>1.49-1.96</b> | Mg               | Nl           | pH                 | 7.39  |
| BUN          | 29               | WBC              | 9900         | pCO2               | 33  |
| Na           | 138              | <b>Hb</b>        | <b>7.6</b>   | <b>HCO3</b>        | <b>16</b>   |
| <b>K</b>     | <b>5.7</b>       | Plt              | 204000       | <b>U/A</b>         | <b>Pr3+, B1 3+, RBC 24-26,<br/>60% dysm, WBC 22-24,<br/>Renal cell, Granular cast</b> |
| BS           | 106              | ALT              | 29           |                    |   |
| AST          | 24               | Al Ph            | 185          |                    |   |
| <b>Ca</b>    | <b>6.3</b>       | <b>uric acid</b> | <b>9.6</b>   | U/C                | neg   |
| <b>Alb</b>   | <b>2 g/dl</b>    | R.F.             | Nl           | Troponin           | nl  |
| <b>P</b>     | <b>5.2</b>       | CPK              | Nl           | Lipid profile      | nl  |
| <b>Vit D</b> | <b>23</b>        | <b>PTH</b>       | <b>99 ng</b> | <b>24 hr ur pr</b> | <b>10.800 gm</b>  |
| Ferritin     | 274              | ESR              | 67           | 24 hr ur cr        | 954 mg  |
|              |                  |                  |              | Ur Vol             | 1800 ml   |

# Causes of nephrotic syndrome

| Idiopathic  | Medications   | Allergens, venoms,   | Infections  |
|---|---|--|---|
| Minimal change,<br>Membranous ,<br>FSGS<br>Fibrillary GN<br>Mesangioproliferative GN<br><b>Membranoproliferative GN</b><br>Proliferative GN | Inorganic,<br>elemental mercury<br>Organic gold<br>Penicillamine,<br>Bucillamine<br>Street heroin<br>Probenecid<br>Captopril<br>NSAIDs<br>Lithium<br>Interferon- $\alpha$ | Bee sting<br>Pollens<br>Poison ivy and poison oak<br>Antitoxins (serum sickness)<br>Snake venom<br>Diphtheria,<br>Pertussis,<br>Tetanus toxoid<br>Vaccines | PSGN,<br>Infective endocarditis,<br>Shunt nephritis,<br>Leprosy,<br>Syphilis,<br>Mycoplasma<br><b>Chronic PN with VUR</b><br>Hepatitis B & C,<br>CMV,<br>EBV,<br>Herpes zoster,<br>HIV1 |

# Causes of nephrotic syndrome...

| Multisystem disease   | Neoplasms  | Hereditary, familial, metabolic  | Miscellaneous   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>SLE</p> <p>IgA vasculitis (Henoch-Schönlein purpura)</p> <p><b>Immunoglobulin A nephropathy,</b></p> <p>Systemic vasculitis: GPA (Wegener's granulomatosis),</p> <p>Mixed cryoglobulinemia</p> <p>Sjögren's syndrome,</p> <p>Amyloidosis (primary and secondary)</p> | <p>Lung</p> <p>Colon</p> <p>Stomach</p> <p>Breast</p> <p>Hodgkin's</p> <p>CLL</p> <p>Lymphoma</p> <p>Multiple myeloma (amyloidosis),</p> <p>GVHD</p> | <p>Diabetes mellitus</p> <p>Hypothyroidism (myxedema)</p> <p>Graves' disease</p> <p>Amyloidosis (familial)</p> <p>Mediterranean fever</p> <p>Alport's syndrome</p> <p>Fabry's disease</p> <p>Nail-patella syndrome</p> <p>Lipoprotein glomerulopathy</p> | <p>Pregnancy associated (preeclampsia, recurrent, transient)</p> <p>Chronic renal allograft failure</p> <p>Accelerated or malignant nephrosclerosis</p> <p>Unilateral renal arterial hypertension</p> |

# Case...

## Immunologic tests:

- C3, C4, ANA, Anti ds DNA : nl or neg.
- ANCA (MPO, PR3): neg.
- **Anti GBM: 101, 100** (nl<10)
- Serum IgA; nl,
- **HBsAg: neg, HBcAb (IgM)= neg**
- **HIV Ab: neg**
- **HCVAb: neg,**
- **TSH, T3, T4 = nl**
- **PPD= 4-5 mm**

- **US: RK=121 mm, LK=125 mm, mild bilateral hydroureteronephrosis, free fluid in abdomen and pelvic.**
- **Chest CT: mild pericardial effusion, bilat. mod. pleural effusion.**
- **Doppler US of LE: no DVT.**
- **Echo: EF 50%, mild pericardial effusion, bilat. Pl. Ef.**
- **Wound culture: E-Coli & klebsiella**
- Sensitive: Tazocin, meropenem, amikacin

# Suggested Initial Laboratory Tests for Nephrotic-Range Proteinuria

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| • Complete blood cell count           | • Lipid panel   |
| • Basic metabolic panel               | • Phospholipase A2 receptor antibody                  |
| • Total protein and albumin           | • HBsAg, anti-HBs, anti-HBc                           |
| • Hemoglobin A1c                      | • Hepatitis C virus antibody                          |
| • Erythrocyte sedimentation rate      | • HIV ELISA   |
| • Antinuclear antibody                | • SPEP and UPEP and immunofixation                    |
| • C3 and C4                           | • $\kappa$ : $\lambda$ free light chain ratio         |
| • Ferritin                            | • Spot urine albumin, urine protein, urine creatinine |
| • PT/INR and aPTT (for kidney biopsy) | • Urinalysis with sediment evaluation                 |



# Patient: management

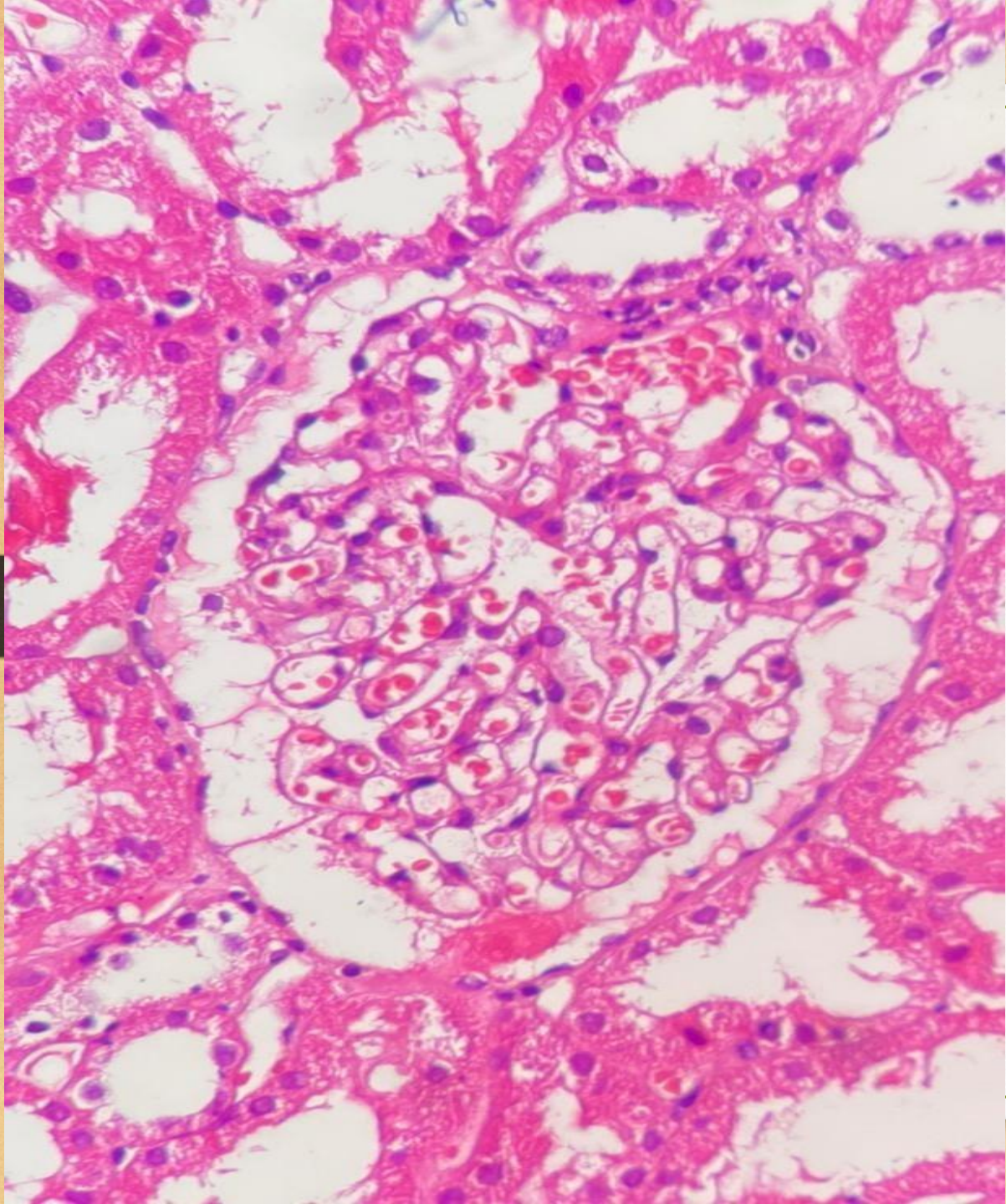
- Heparin prophylaxis
- Clindamycin
- Meropenem
- CaCO<sub>3</sub>
- Furosemide
- NaHCO<sub>3</sub>

- Kayexalate
- Pantoprazole
- Carvedilol
- Valsartan
- HCTZ

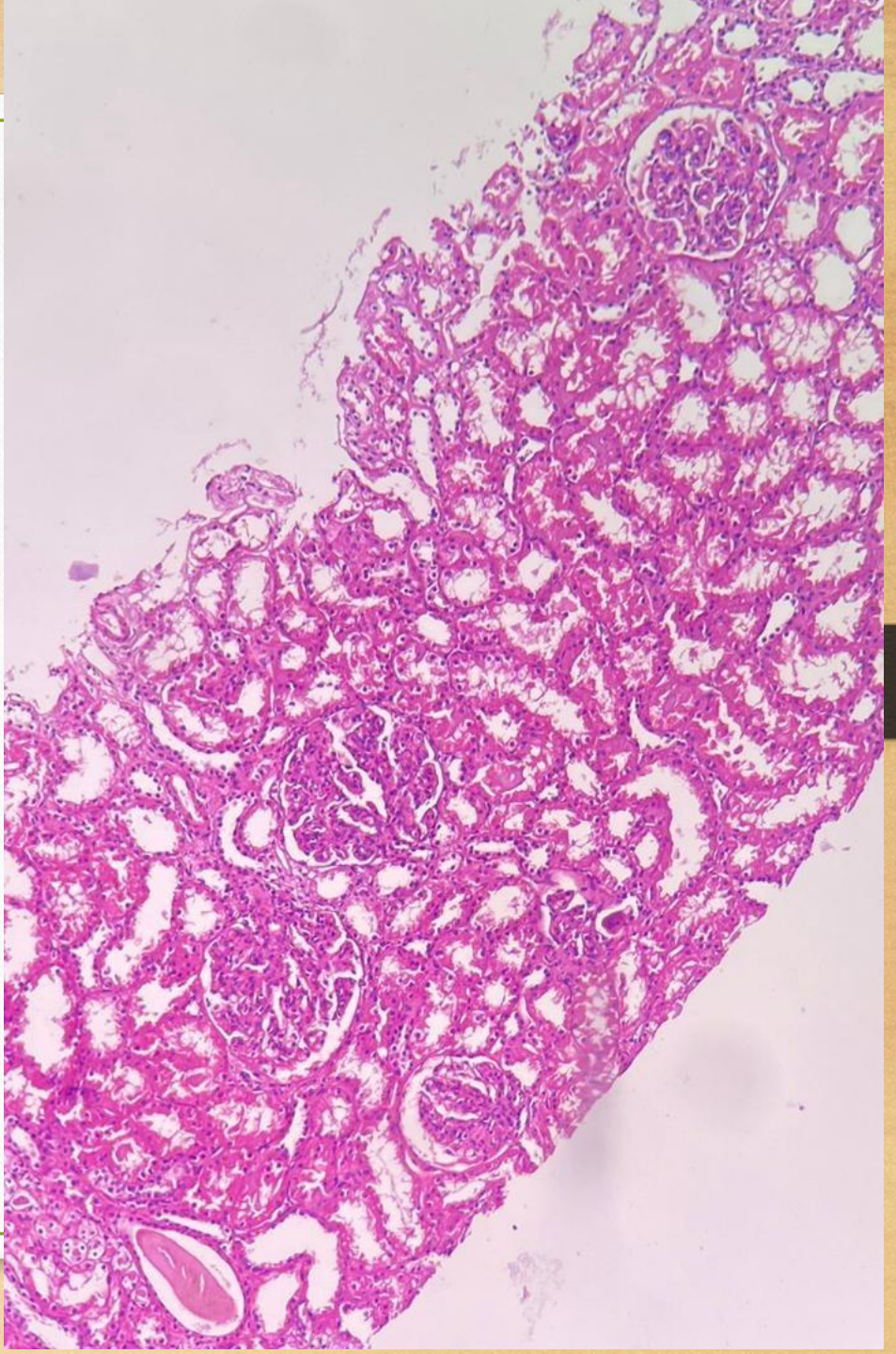
# Kidney biopsy was done

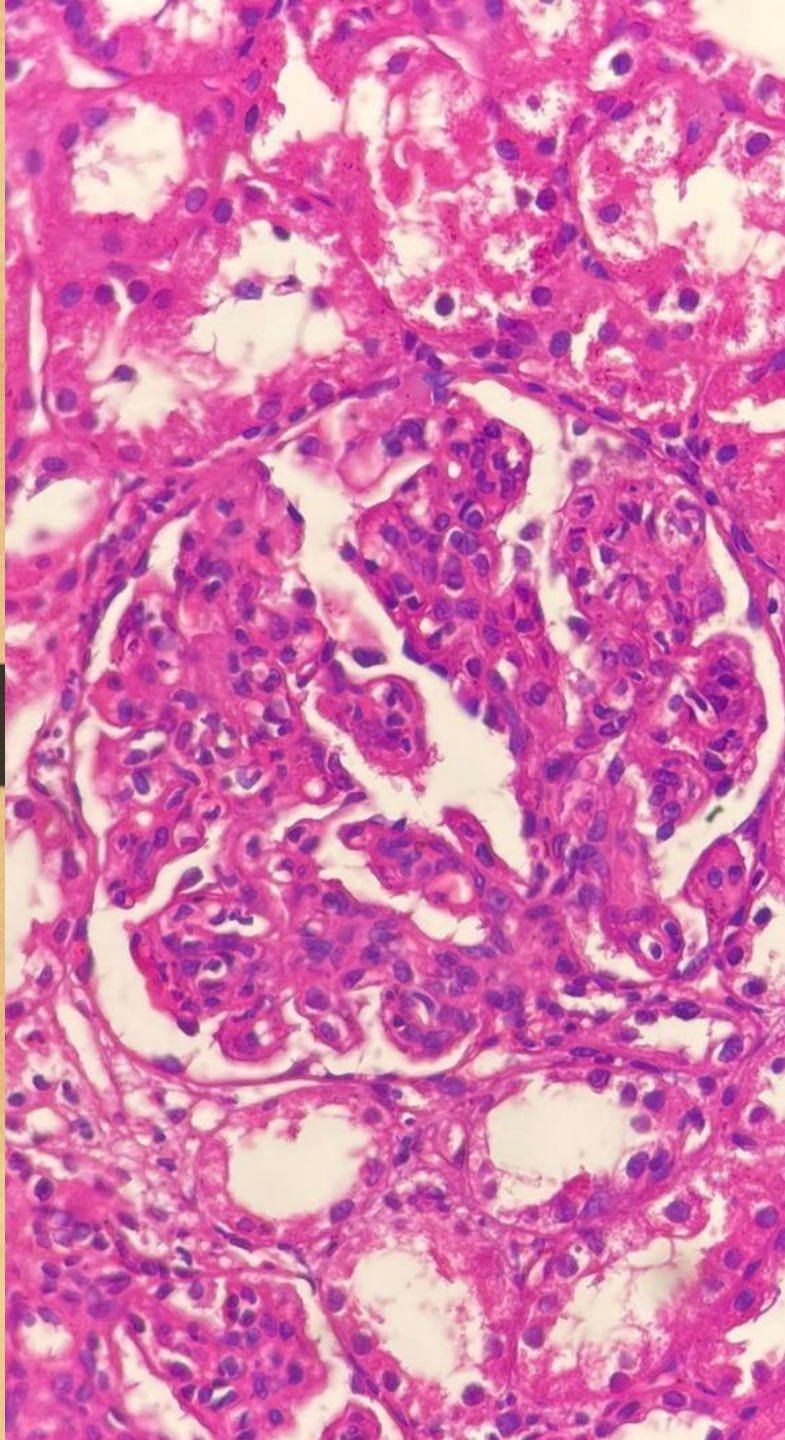
## Report (1):

- Diffuse Membranoproliferative GN, immune mediated, IgA3+ dominant, mild focal tubulointerstitial nephritis
- IF: linear-granular deposits of **IgA+++** (mes & GBM), **C3+ and C1q+** deposits, IgG: linear.
- Endocapillary proliferation in most glomeruli (severe activity of the disease, no chronicity of the disease)
- Work-up for infectious, autoimmune disease should be considered.

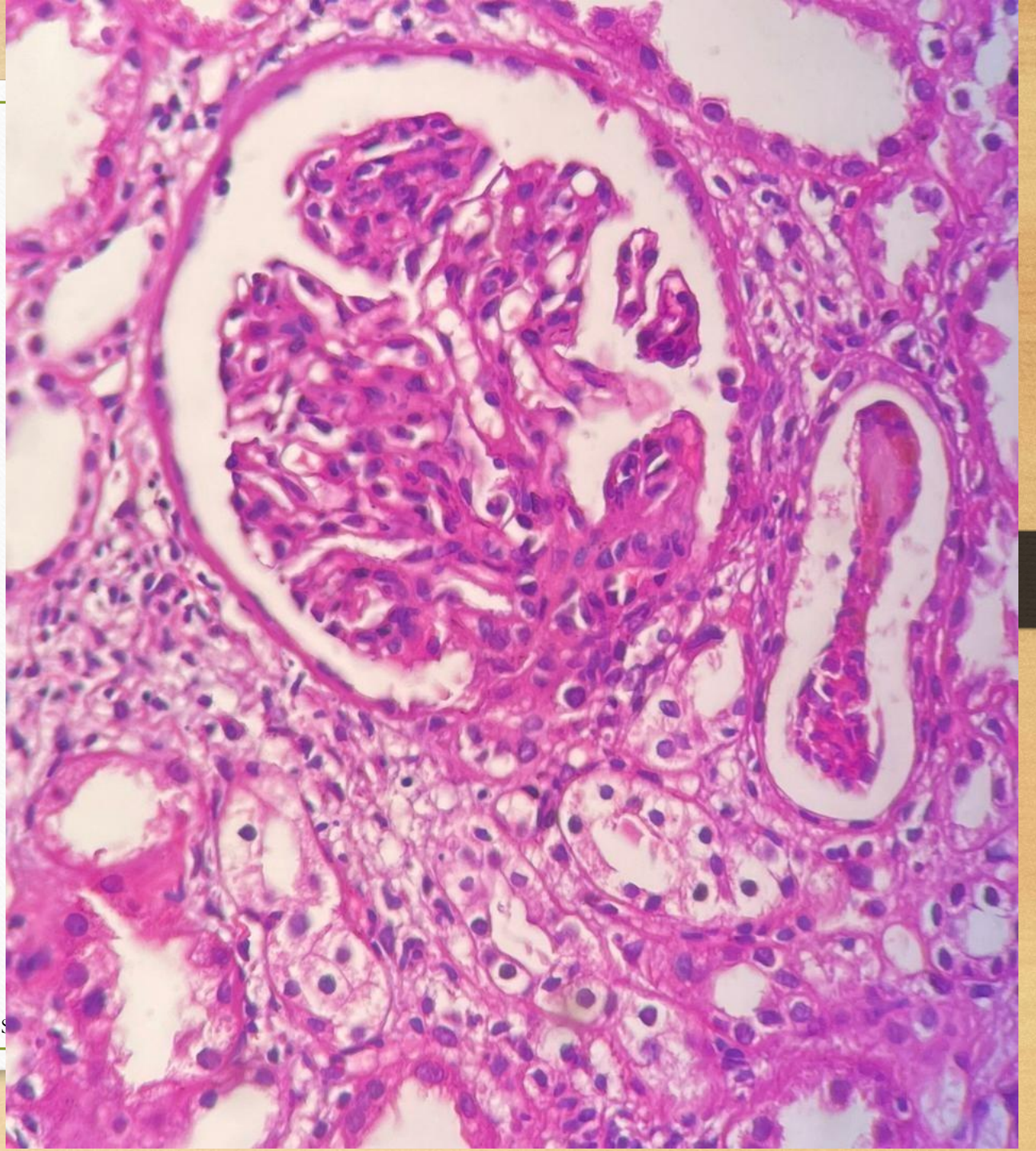


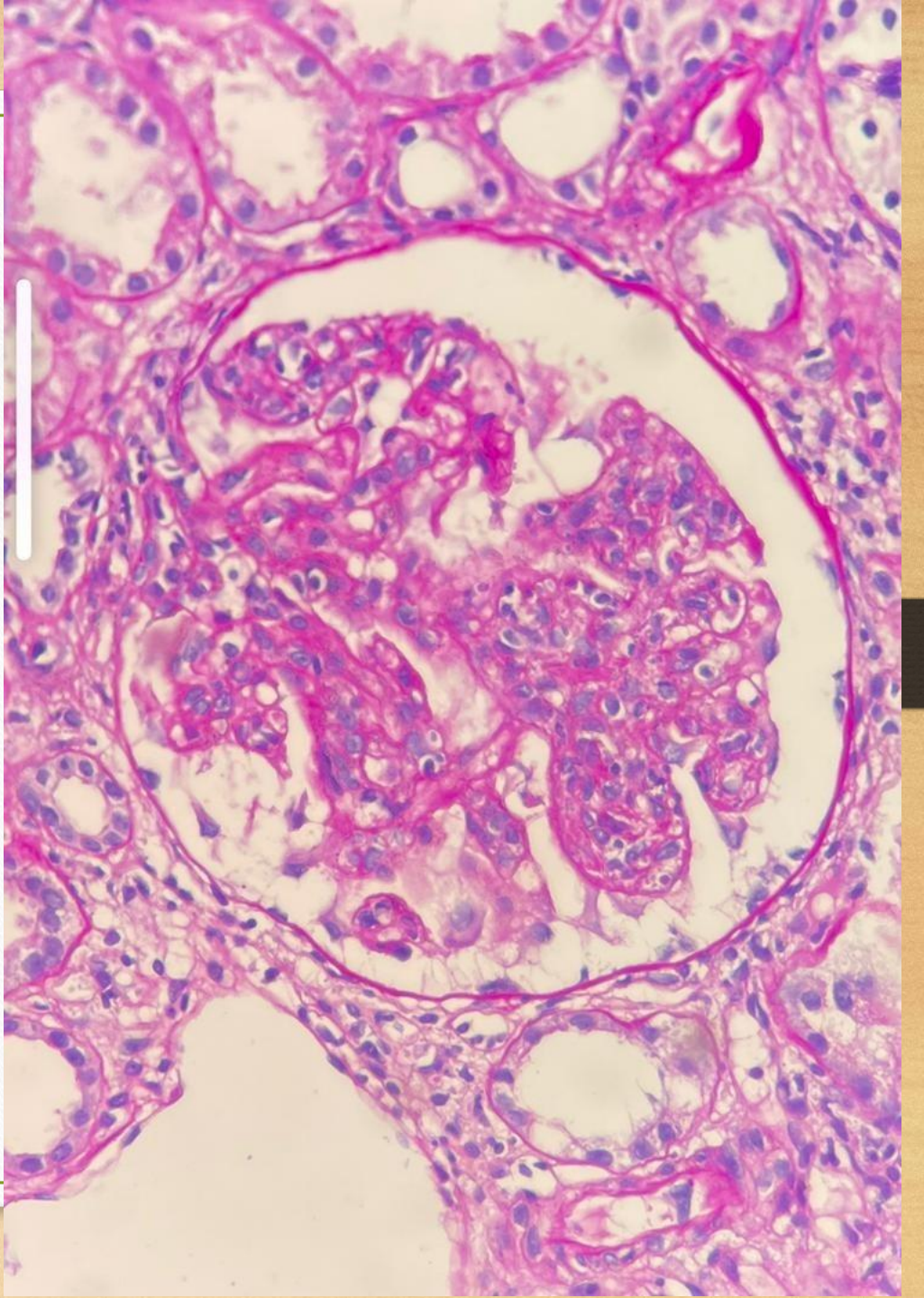
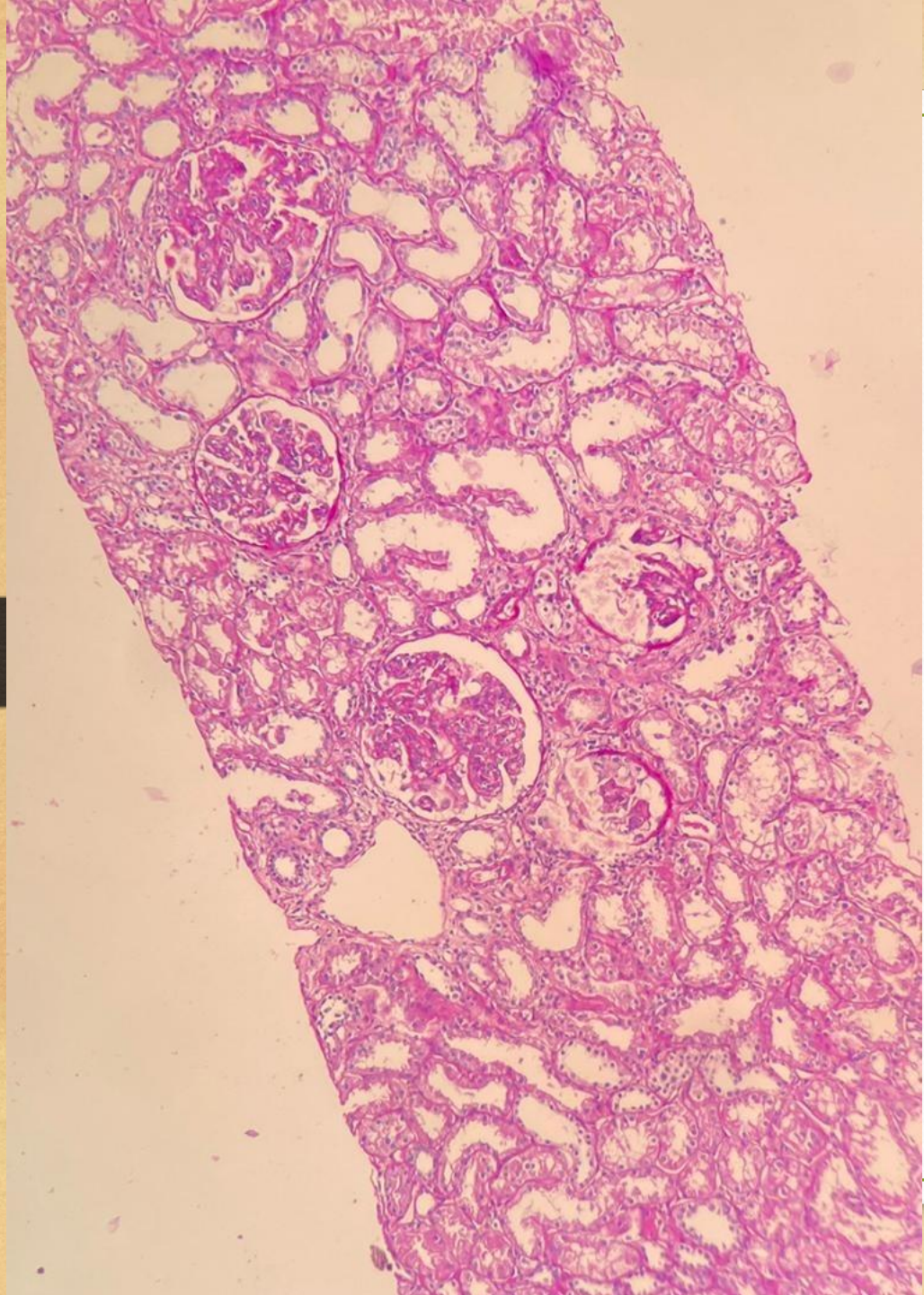
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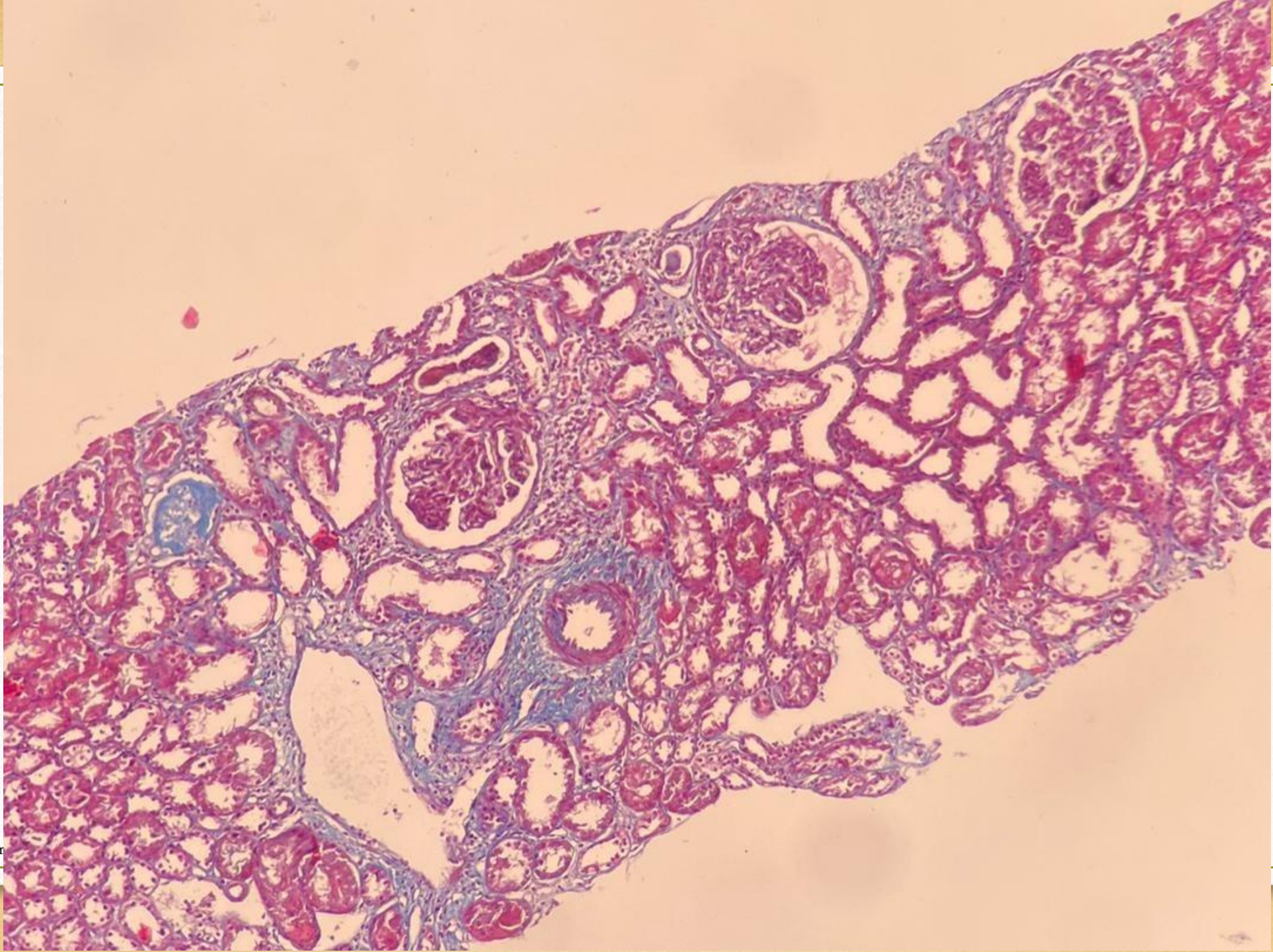




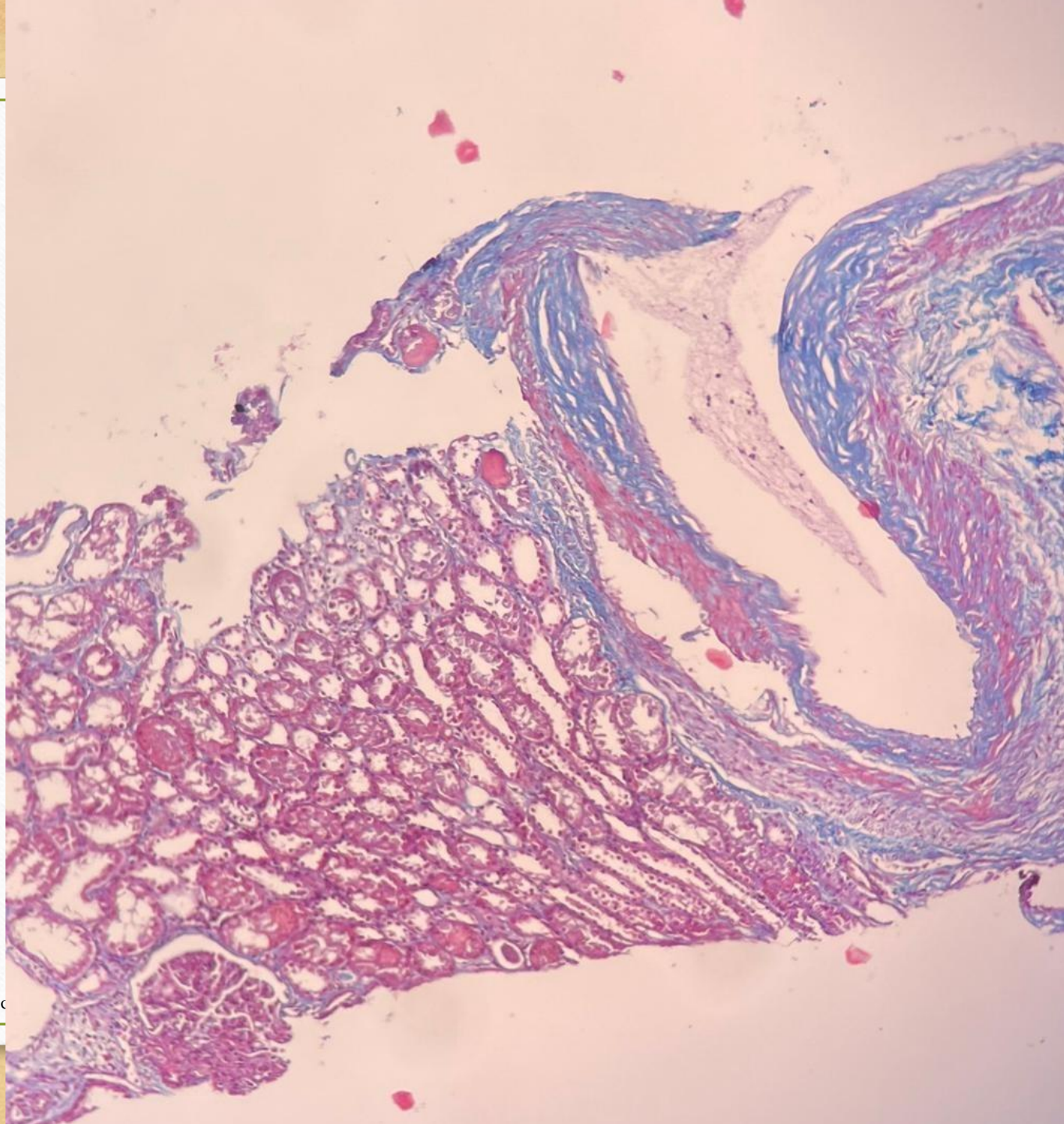
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Neph



# Glomerular Involvement With Bacterial Infections (**Visceral Infection**)

- Abdominal, pulmonary, and retroperitoneal abscesses are known to be associated with glomerulonephritis.
- **Decreased serum complement** levels.
- **All** renal biopsies showed a **diffuse proliferative and crescentic glomerulonephritis**.
- If the infection was not cured or in whom **therapy was delayed, chronic renal failure** also developed.



# Anti GBM disease

## Clinical features:

An abrupt, acute glomerulonephritis with severe oliguria or anuria. High risk of progression to ESRD if appropriate therapy is not instituted immediately.

Prompt treatment with plasmapheresis, corticosteroids, and cyclophosphamide results in patient survival of approximately 85% and renal survival of approximately 60%

# Anti GBM disease

## Pathology:

**LM:** At the time of biopsy, 97% of patients have crescent formation, and 85% have crescents in 50% or more of glomeruli

- Mild: focal, segmental proliferative GN with segmental necrosis and small crescents.

# Anti GBM disease

## Pathology:

**IF:** linear staining of the GBMs for Ig is indicative of anti-GBM glomerulonephritis.

- The immunoglobulin is predominantly IgG;
- Rare patients with IgA dominant,
- The diagnostic finding is an intense and diffuse linear staining for IgG.

# IgA nephropathy

The most common form of primary glomerular disease in Asia, (up to 30% to 40% of all biopsies,

Most common in the 2nd and 3rd decades of life and is much more common in males than females

## **Classification:**

- **1- Primary**
- **2- Secondary**
- **3- Familial**

The kidney (Brenner's) 2020

# IgA nephropathy

- **Familial: 4% to 14% of patients with IgA nephropathy may have a family history of kidney disease, and systematic screening of asymptomatic first-degree relatives has detected hematuria in more than 25% of them.**

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# IgA nephropathy

## Pathology

The **pathognomonic** finding is on **IF**:

- Dominant or codominant **mesangial deposits of IgA**, either alone, with IgG, with IgM, with a predominance for **lambda light chains**.
- **C3** over 90 % of cases.
- **C1q** is almost always **absent**,

LM: mesangial hypercellularity, and matrix expansion is commonly focal.

Uptodate®- Clinical presentation and diagnosis of IgA nephropathy

# Secondary IgA nephropathy

|  |                               |                                     |  |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>IgA vasculitis (Henoch-Schönlein purpura)</b> | <b>Crohn's disease</b>        | <b>Cyclic neutropenia</b>           | <b>Berger's disease</b>  |
| <b>Human immunodeficiency virus infection</b>    | <b>Liver disease</b>          | <b>Immuno-thrombocytopenia</b>      | <b>Leprosy</b>   |
| <b>Toxoplasmosis</b>                             | <b>Alcoholic cirrhosis</b>    | <b>Gluten-sensitive enteropathy</b> | <b>Pulmonary hemosiderosis</b>   |
| <b>Seronegative spondyloarthropathy</b>          | <b>Ankylosing spondylitis</b> | <b>Scleritis, Sicca syndrome</b>    | <b>Dermatitis herpetiformis</b>  |
| <b>Celiac disease</b>                            | <b>Reiter's syndrome</b>      | <b>Mastitis</b>                     | <b>Neoplasia:<br/>Mycosis fungoides, Lung carcinoma, Mucin-secreting carcinoma</b> |

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# Membranoproliferative GN

- The **C3 level** is persistently **depressed** in approximately **75% of MPGN patients**.
- **LM: Infiltrating mononuclear leukocytes and neutrophils** contribute to the **glomerular hypercellularity**.  
IF: C3, immunoglobulin (IgG or IgM).
- **Rare specimens have a predominance of IgA and can be considered an MPGN expression of IgA nephropathy.**
- **Treatment:** Low-dose, alternate-day prednisone therapy may improve renal function.

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# Secondary Causes of Membranoproliferative Glomerulonephritis (MPGN) Associated With Infection

|                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Hepatitis B and C         | Shunt nephritis         |
| <b>Visceral abscesses</b> | Schistosoma nephropathy |
| Infective endocarditis    | Mycoplasma infection    |
| Quartan malaria           | Osteomyelitis           |
|                           |                         |

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# Patient: management

- **Prednisolone 75 mg oral daily + antibiotics**
- Refer to Khorshid Hospital, stayed less than one day and discharged.
- Patients referred to clinic one week later and complained of severe edema.
- Prednisolone dose decreased to 50 mg/ day and asked for another pathologist to report.

# Post-infectious Glomerulonephritis

- **Clinical presentation:** benign asymptomatic to RPGN requiring dialysis.
- **IgA-dominant nephritis** entity recently defined associated with staphylococcal infections.
- Endocarditis-associated nephritis and shunt nephritis are special subtypes of PIGN.

Journal Paediatrics and International Child Health, Volume 37, 2017 - Issue 4: Renal diseases and disorders of the urinary tract

Advances In Anatomic Pathology: September 2012 - Volume 19 - Issue 5 - p 338-347

# **IgA-Dominant Postinfectious Glomerulonephritis: A New Twist on an Old Disease**

Samih H. Nasr<sup>a</sup> Vivette D. D'Agati<sup>b</sup>

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Nephron Clin Pract 2011;119:c18–c26

# IgA-dominant PIGN..

- A morphologic variant of APIGN.
- The alternative designation ‘IgA-dominant acute post-staphylococcal glomerulonephritis’ has been applied.
- **IgA is the sole or dominant immunoglobulin** in IgA-dominant APIGN.
- This variant of APIGN must be distinguished from IgA nephropathy.

Nephron Clin Pract 2011;119:c18–c26

# IgA-dominant PIGN..

- **The most common site of infection is skin**, (cellulitis, surgical wound infections, skin abscesses and IV line infection), lung, urinary tract, bone, heart, deep-seated abscesses and upper respiratory tract.
- **Clinical renal** presentations included **renal failure** (acute or rapidly progressive), **hematuria, proteinuria and hypertension**.

Nephron Clin Pract 2011;119:c18–c26

# IgA-dominant PIGN..

- Serum **creatinine**: range **1.2 to 14.5** mg/dl (mean: 4.0 mg/dl.
- **Proteinuria**: range **0.15–15** g/day,
- **Nephrotic range** in **51%** of patients.
- **Hypocomplementemia** in **69 %** of patients.

Nephron Clin Pract 2011;119:c18–c26

# IgA-dominant PIGN

## Features favoring IgA-dominant PIGN over IgA nephropathy

### *Clinical features*

**Intercurrent culture-documented staphylococcal infection**

**Hypocomplementemia**

**Presentation in older age**

**History of diabetes mellitus**

**Acute renal failure at presentation**

### *Pathologic features*

**Endocapillary proliferation with neutrophil infiltration on LM**

**Stronger staining for C3 than IgA on IF**

**‘Starry sky’ pattern on IF**

**Subepithelial ‘humps’ on EM**



# IgA-dominant PIGN

Post-staphylococcal glomerulonephritis:

- **IgA-dominant** or codominant deposits
- **Normal serum complement**
- **Only mesangial** hypercellularity on LM
- **No subepithelial** deposits on EM.

Likely **primary IgA nephropathy** (in which an intercurrent infection has caused exacerbation or recrudescence of existing nephritis) **rather than true APIGN.**

Nephron Clin Pract 2011;119:c18–c26

# **New trends of an old disease: the acute post infectious glomerulonephritis at the beginning of the new millenium**

**Piero Stratta · Claudio Musetti · Antonella Barreca ·  
Gianna Mazzucco**

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## **Pathogenesis post staphylococcal acute GN with IgA-dominant deposits:**

- Exotoxin superantigens stimulate an abnormal IgA production, forming IgA immune-complexes

# Prevalence of infective agents cause acute PIGN

| Species                  | Children and young adults | Elderly (>65 years) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Streptococcus            | >95%                      | 16-30 %             |
| Staphylococcus           | Uncommon                  | 24-60 %             |
| E-Coli                   | very rare                 | 5- 10 %             |
| Klebsiella, anterobacter | very rare                 | 2 %                 |

| Species  | Children and young adults | Elderly (>65 years) |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Bacteria   |                           |                     |
| <i>Streptococcus</i>   | >95 %                     | 16–30 %             |
| Group A Beta-hemolytic type 12   |                           |                     |
| Type M 1–4, 18, 25, 31, 49, 52, 55–57, 59-61   |                           |                     |
| Group C  |                           |                     |
| Group G  |                           |                     |
| <i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> ,<br><i>S. haemolyticus</i> , <i>S. aureus</i>             | Uncommon                  | 24–60 %             |
| <i>Escherichia coli</i>  | Very rare                 | 5–10 %              |
| <i>Pseudomonas</i>   |                           | 3 %                 |
| <i>Acinetobacter</i>   |                           |                     |
| <i>Serratia</i> , <i>Proteus</i>   |                           | 2 %                 |
| <i>Klebsiella</i> , <i>Enterobacter</i>  |                           | 2 %                 |
| <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>  | Very rare                 | 1–2 %               |
| <i>Enterococcus</i>  |                           | 0–2 %               |
| <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Campylobacter</i>   | Very rare                 | Rare (<1 %)         |
| <i>Legionella</i> , <i>Brucella</i>  |                           | Rare (<1 %)         |
| <i>Borrelia</i> , <i>Treponema</i>   |                           | Rare (<1 %)         |
| Mycobacteria (tuberculosis, avium, laprae)—might be associated with chronic GNs              |                           | Rare (<1 %)         |
| <i>Neisseria</i> (mainly associated with membranoproliferative GN and subacute endocarditis) |                           | Rare (<1 %)         |

# Patient management..

## 1 month later:

- Prednisolone 25 mg
- Furosemide 80
- Valsartan 160
- Vit D3 50.000 /wk
- Calcium-Zinc-Mg\* 2
- Apixaban 10/d

- Tavanex 750 daily
- Clindamycin 600\*3 daily
- Pantoprazole 40
- Carvedilol 6.25\*2
- Nephrovit
- PD poetin 4000\*2/ wk

# Therapy of PIGN

- **Infection:**

Antibiosis and supportive therapy

- **Immunosuppressive:**

1. **Rapidly progressive renal failure and crescents** in 30–50 % of glomeruli, which is a strongly negative prognostic factor.

2. **Severe interstitial infiltrate**

The preferred therapy is usually based on iv **steroid pulses** (500–1000 mg or 10–15 mg/kg each) for **three consecutive days**, followed by **oral steroids** according to clinical evolution and renal function recovery.

## Labs, 2 months later

- US: normal kidney size 121, 123 mm, no hydronephrosis and fluid in abdomen or pelvis, with Foley catheter balloon in the bladder.
- Cr=1.96 mg, eGFR~ 40
- **Serum Alb=3.1** vs. 2
- Hb=10
- **Urine protein (24 hr)=1900** mg vs. 10800 mg



Nephro





# Definitions of Various Conditions in Nephrotic Syndrome in Adults

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Steroid-sensitive nephrotic syndrome (SSNS) | nephrotic syndrome that had remission with prednisone, 1 mg/kg, daily or 2 mg/kg, every other day use within 4 mo            |
| Steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome (SRNS) | nephrotic syndrome that failed to achieve remission with prednisone, 1 mg/kg, daily or 2 mg/kg, every other day use for 4 mo |
| Steroid dependence (SD)                     | 2 consecutive relapses during steroid therapy or within 2 wk of ceasing therapy  |
| Frequent relapse (FR)                       | ≥2 relapses within 6 mo of initial response or 4+ relapses within any 12-mo period   |
| Infrequent relapse                          | 1 relapse within 6 mo of initial response, or 1-3 relapses in any 12-mo period and treated with steroids                     |
| <b>Remission</b>                            | <b>reduction of proteinuria to &lt; 3.5 g/d with stable serum creatinine level (change &lt; 25%)</b>                         |

# Prognosis of PIGN

- Excellent prognosis,
- But long-term follow-up may be needed.

## Outcomes are poor:

- Elderly patients
- Underlying disease.

Nature Reviews Nephrology **volume 5**, pages259–269 (2009)

# Probable Diagnoses

1. Anti GBM disease  $\neq$  no crescent or AKI
2. Secondary IgA nephropathy  $\neq$  no secondary infection
3. Secondary MPGN (post-infectious GN)  $\neq$  no depressed C3
4. Amyloidosis  $\neq$  negative congo-red
5. Primary IgA nephropathy

**Thanks for your patience**

