months progressed before the biopsy, with severe histological damage), we did manage to stabilise renal function.

In conclusion, we have described the case of severe interstitial nephritis in a woman with primary sclerosing cholangitis: in these patients, we should examine whether this association could be referred to as an emerging pathology: “IgG4-related systemic disease.”

Conflicts of interest
The authors affirm that they have no conflicts of interest related to the content of this article.


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Minimal-change nephropathy in systemic lupus erythematosus
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To the Editor,
In patients diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and nephrotic syndrome, the most common histological findings are diffuse proliferative glomerulonephritis and membranous nephropathy (class IV and class V according to the World Health Organisation [WHO], 1982).¹

Here we report the case of a patient with SLE who developed nephrotic syndrome secondary to minimal-change nephropathy (MCN).

Our patient was a 59-year-old woman diagnosed with SLE (photosensitivity, discoid lupus, arthritis, and positive test for antinuclear antibodies [ANA]) 18 years earlier, occasionally under treatment with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) and hydroxychloroquine. The patient was referred to our department for oedema in the legs and arterial hypertension for the past two months. The physical examination revealed oedema in both legs up to the knee and a blood pressure of 140/90 mm Hg. The laboratory analysis revealed nor-

Figure 2. (A) Immunohistochemical staining (x20) with CD3. (B) Immunohistochemical staining (x20) with CD4.
Percutaneous renal biopsy.

SLE could be the causal factor. Thus, MCN could be a lupus podocytopathy associated with T-lymphocyte alterations in SLE. However, other authors suggest that idiopathic MCN can appear in patients with SLE that are in remission.

In the current classification system for lupus nephritis (ISN/RPS, 2004), minimal mesangial lupus nephritis is established as class I, characterised by normal glomeruli in optical microscopy analysis and mesangial deposits in immunofluorescence tests and/or electron microscopy analysis. Cases of MCN in SLE have been described such as ours in which no significant deposits are observed in immunofluorescence or electron microscopy analyses, and that do not fit the current classification for lupus nephritis. However, according to the WHO classification system, they could be categorised as class Ia.

In this patient, we observed no temporal relationship with NSAID treatment.

To conclude, SLE appears to be a precipitating factor for MCN. However, in certain cases such as ours, in which MCN appears several years after SLE onset, with little or no lupus activity and no deposits observed in the renal biopsy samples, the pathogenic relationship is more debatable.

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Conflicts of interest

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