Cartas al director

Dear Editor,

We read with interest the report of Dr. Guang-Yu Zhou, about a case of Membranous Glomerulonephritis with crescentic transformation.1 Acute crescentic transformation is a rare but well described event in patients with membranous glomerulonephritis.2 The concomitant occurrence of a vasculitic glomerulonephritis and membranous nephropathy in the same patient is unusual.3 We report herein our similar experience. A caucasian 66-year-old man presented for rapid declining of renal function. For nearly 10 years he was suffering from hypertension and for 4 years he is having paresthesias, muscle aches in the legs and significant reduction in muscle strength with an ataxic walking. This condition was interpreted as a mixed sensori-motor polyneuropathy. He performed therapy with prednisone and azathioprine, suspended for 1 year; six months before, laboratory tests showed a 24-h protein excretion 1.1g/d, Hb: 9.1g/dl, serum creatinine concentration 550.8 µmol/L and a 24-h protein excretion 0.75g/d. On admission, the physical examination showed edema and severe hypertension; we detected a 24-h protein excretion 1.1g/d, Hb: 9.1g/dl, serum creatinine concentration 550.8µmol/L, the urinalysis 2 + urine protein and 1 + urine blood. ANCA determined in serum screening test by indirect immunofluorescence and other immunological tests, including anti-nuclear antibodies (ANAs), anti-Sm antibody, anti-dsDNA antibody, anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide (CCP) antibody, and anti-glomerular basement membrane (GBM) antibody were negative; serum complement and immunoglobulin levels were normal. Liver function tests and other routine parameters were within the normal range. There was no evidence of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), infection, malignancy. For the clinical suspicion of a vasculitis leading to renal and neurological involvement, we performed a kidney biopsy. In the light microscopic visualization of renal tissue, 11 out of 17 glomeruli were globally sclerotic; the remaining glomeruli showed: diffuse, global and marked thickening of capillary wall (Figure 1), focal and diffuse sub-epithelial vacuolation; global and segmental sub epithelial deposits with sub-epithelial spikes, formation of 11 crescents (nº 3 cellular crescents, nº 1 fibrocellular crescent and nº 7 fibrotic crescents (Figure 2). Immunofluorescence examination displayed granular deposition of IgG, kappa and lambda light chains and a strong, diffuse and global granular staining along the glomerular capillary (subepithelial) walls. Therefore renal histology and laboratory examinations supported diagnosis of membranous GN with crescentic overlap. We diagnosed a vasculitis ANCA-negative and the patient was treated initially with methylprednisolone pulse 125mg/d for 3 days followed by prednisone 50mg/d, and i.v. cyclophosphamide 0.25g once every 21 days. Because of no sign of improvement shown 2 months later, we stopped the cyclophosphamide therapy and the patient started chronic haemodialysis treatment. Several authors have reported acute crescentic transformation in patients with pri-

Comment on “Membranous glomerulonephritis associated with mieloperoxidase antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody-associated glomerulonephritis”

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Figure 1. PAS stain shows global and prominent thickening of the glomerular basement membranes, in the absence of evidence of cellular proliferation (PAS, x 400).
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Figure 2. PAS stain shows a fibrocellular crescent in the urinary space that compresses the residual glomerulus and its tuft (PAS, x 400).

The light microscopic visualization of renal tissue in their case showed the formation of 11 crescents (3 cellular crescents, 1 fibrocellular crescent and 7 fibrotic crescents) and 11 out of 17 glomeruli, the formation of 9 crescents including 4 cellular crescents and 5 fibrocellular crescents, as well as the fibrinoid necrosis lesions upon light microscopy. This indicates our patient might be at the relatively early stage of crescentic glomerulonephritis and the renal biopsy findings may interpret the better response to immunosuppressive treatments in our case.

Dear Editor,

We were very interested by the comment submitted by Dr. Gioacchino Li Cavoli and his collaborators, regarding their similar experience of a membranous glomerulonephritis with crescentic overlap. First of all, we would like to thank them for their input.

They reported a case of membranous glomerulonephritis (MGN) with crescentic transformation in a ANCA-negative vasculitis which revealed no evidence of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), anti-glomerular basement membrane (GBM) glomerulonephritis, infection, malignancy and showed no improvement after immunosuppressive treatments. The case they presented was similar to the patient that Kwan JT et al. described previously. Although several authors have demonstrated the concomitance of MGN and ANCA-associated glomerulonephritis, MGN accompanied by ANCA-negative crescentic glomerulonephritis has been rarely encountered.

Conflict of interest
The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest associated with this manuscript.


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The light microscopic visualization of renal tissue in their case showed the formation of 11 crescents (3 cellular crescents, 1 fibrocellular crescent and 7 fibrotic crescents) and 11 out of 17 glomeruli were globally sclerotic. These histopathological changes indicate the patient has reached to an advanced stage of crescentic glomerulonephritis and the renal disease has progressed to the sclerotic phase at the time of renal biopsy. Nasr SH et al. reported that the percentage of globally sclerotic glomeruli correlated with nonresponse to immunosuppressive agents. This is why the patient showed no improvement after treated with steroid plus cyclophosphamide and started chronic haemodialysis treatment eventually. By contrast, our case showed 2 sclerosed glomeruli out of 19 glomeruli, the formation of 9 crescents including 4 cellular crescents and 5 fibrocellular crescents, as well as the fibrinoid necrosis lesions upon light microscopy. This indicates our patient might be at the relatively early stage of crescentic glomerulonephritis and the renal biopsy findings may interpret the better response to immunosuppressive treatments in our case.

Concerning the prognosis of this group of patients, Nasr SH et al. reported that 50% of patients had reached endpoints of end-stage renal stage (ESRD) or

Respuesta
Response to “Comment on ‘Membranous glomerulonephritis associated with mieloperoxidase antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody associated glomerulonephritis’”
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Gioacchino Li Cavoli1, Angelo Ferrantelli2, Luisa Bono3, Calogera Tortorici2, Carlo Giammarresi1, Rita Passantino1, Ugo Rotolo1

1 Division of Nephrology. Civic and Di Cristina Hospital. Palermo (Italy)
2 Anatomical Pathology Department. Civic and Di Cristina Hospital. Palermo (Italy)
Correspondence: Gioacchino Li Cavoli Division of Nephrology. Civic and Di Cristina Hospital. Via Francesco Cilea 43. 90144 Palermo, Italy. gioacchinolicavoli@libero.it