



Glomerular Expression of Some Profibrotic Factors in Progressive Childhood Lupus Nephritis.

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Abstract:

Lupus nephritis (LN) is a major cause of mortality and morbidity in both adult and pediatric patients. However, studies regarding pathogenesis and predictors of renal outcomes in childhood LN are limited. Transforming growth factor- β 1 (TGF- β 1) and Connective tissue growth factor (CTGF) have an important role in proliferative and fibrotic changes in many renal diseases. We aim to evaluate the role of such two profibrotic factors in the progression of childhood onset LN and to detect if their glomerular expression could represent an early predictor of future deterioration of renal function. METHODS: 34 children with new onset of LN were included. Glomerular expressions of TGF- β 1 and CTGF were evaluated by immunohistochemical analysis in the renal tissue of such patients and in control tissue. GFR was estimated at time of renal biopsy at the onset of LN and after 2 years of follow-up. Rate of GFR change (Δ GFR) was calculated and used as indicative of degree of renal disease progression. RESULTS: Glomerular TGF- β 1 and CTGF expressions in children with LN were significantly higher than in control tissue (LN 15.41 ± 9.84 and 15.56 ± 10.51 vs. 2.15 ± 1.45 and 1.35 ± 1.07 in control respectively, with p

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