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Plasmapheresis and rituximab therapy in a second living-related kidney transplant patient with recurrent focal segmental glomerulosclerosis

Radmila Bracanovic, BSN, Marina Ratkovic, MD PhD, Danilo Radunovic, MD, Vladimir Prelevic, MD, Zorica Rasovic, BN, Dragana Velimirovic, BN, Jelena Krstajic, BN, Snezana Bosnic, BN, Ivana Draskovic, BSN, Verica Savovic, BN

Nephrology and Hemodialysis Department , Clinical Center of Montenegro , Podgorica, Montenegro

BACKROUND

In focal segmental glomerular sclerosis (FSGS), the success of renal transplantation may be impaired by the frequent risk of recurrence of the disease on the allograft. In the first kidney allograft, 20 to 30% of patients develop recurrence of FSGS. Second grafts, in those who have had recurrence in their first graft, are generally accompanied by a further recurrence.

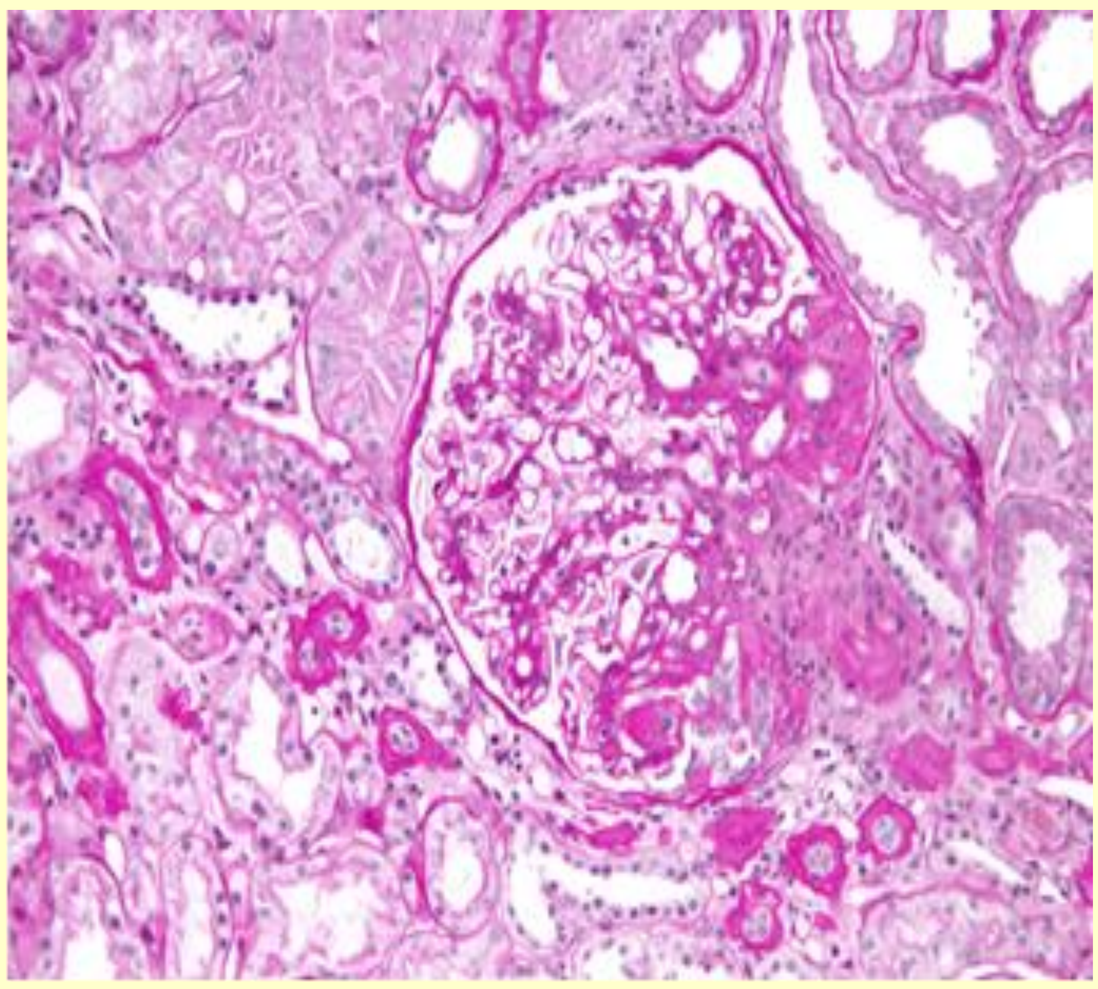

Figure 1. Recurrence of FSGS on transplanted kidney

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Case report study

RESULTS

Male patient, 32 years old, was diagnosed nephrotic syndrome and CKD in 27th year. He is from family with ADPKD. In the same year he developed ESRD and started with hemodialysis treatment. In 29th year he was treated with kidney transplantation from deceased donor. He developed multiple complications afterwards: delayed graft function, proteinuria, vein graft stenosis and ureteral obstruction treated with ureteral stent and ureteroneocystostomy. He was treated with plasmapheresis without success. He underwent 4 graft biopsies with recurrent FSGS findings with elements of acute rejection and acute tubular necrosis. He was also treated with rituximab and intravenous immunoglobulins. Due to many infection episodes and complications in the next period he underwent graftectomy one year after. He was treated with kidney transplantation from living related donor in 2014 without complications in postoperative period. Four months after transplantation he presented with proteinuria of 30 grams per day. After biopsy of transplanted kidney recurrent FSGS was pathologically confirmed (figure 1.). Patient was treated with plasmapheresis, corticosteroids, intravenous immunoglobulins and rituximab. Proteinuria was reduced to 0,4 grams per day and graft function is preserved.

CONCLUSIONS

Recurrence of FSGS after transplantation is relatively frequent in patients who lost a previous transplant from recurrence. In the case of living donation, the possibility of recurrence and its consequences should be clearly exposed to and discussed with the donor and the recipient.

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