



Response to the Editor Regarding Our Manuscript on “Clinical Characteristics of Children with Acute Post-streptococcal Glomerulonephritis and Re-evaluation of Patients with Artificial Intelligence”

“Akut Post-Streptokokal Glomerülonefritli Çocukların Klinik Özellikleri ve Hastaların Yapay Zeka ile Yeniden Değerlendirilmesi” Konulu Makalemize İlişkin Editöre Mektuba Yanıt

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Keywords: Acute postinfection glomerulonephritis, artificial intelligence, ChatGPT

Anahtar kelimeler: Akut postenfeksiyon glomerülonefrit, yapay zeka, ChatGPT

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank the readers for their interest in our article¹. Our responses to their questions regarding our manuscript² are provided below.

Our study is a preliminary study examining the usability of an artificial intelligence (AI) model for the diagnosis and treatment of acute poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis (APSGN) in children. The most recent data of the last 11 patients who were followed up and treated in our department between September 2023 and March 2024 were shared with AI. The results obtained with this limited number of patients are intended to shed light on large-scale studies in the future.

The 12 questions directed at AI regarding APSGN are presented in Table 1. The AI answers were evaluated by two pediatric nephrologists with 5 and 16 years

of experience in the field. To make the evaluation transparent, the answers given by AI are shared with the reader in Supplemental File 1. These answers are reproduced in Supplemental File 1. Thus, the answers provided by AI can be easily reviewed by anyone.

In our study, patient data were retrospectively analyzed using the AI model after the treatment processes of our patients were completed. No support was received from the AI in the diagnosis and treatment management of the patients. When the clinical and laboratory data of the patients at the time of initial presentation were summarized to AI, the concordance of the diagnosis and treatment recommendations with the physicians was examined. As an example for readers, the clinical and laboratory data of the first three patients referred to AI, as well as AI's responses in terms of diagnosis and treatment, are presented in Table 3. Data on the other

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Received: 30 October 2024

Accepted: 01 November 2024

Online First: 04 December 2024

Cite as: E. Leventoğlu, Response to the Editor Regarding Our Manuscript on “Clinical Characteristics of Children with Acute Poststreptococcal Glomerulonephritis and Re-evaluation of Patients with Artificial Intelligence”. Medeni Med J. 2024;39:311-329



patients are also shared with the reader as Supplemental File 2. For maximum clarity, these data are presented in Supplemental File 2.

In conclusion, the current study highlights the potential of AI for the diagnosis and treatment of APSGN in children. The findings from our limited patient data may pave the way for more comprehensive future research. In addition, the integration of AI into clinical decision-making processes could significantly improve patient care. Feedback from our readers is invaluable in advancing our work in this field. Thank you for your interest.

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Supplemental File 1. Questions directed at AI regarding APSGN and answers provided by AI

1. The definition of Acute Post-Streptococcal Glomerulonephritis

ChatGPT

Acute post-streptococcal glomerulonephritis (APSGN) is a kidney condition that occurs following infection with certain strains of Streptococcus bacteria, most commonly after a throat infection (pharyngitis) or skin infection (impetigo). In this condition, the immune response to the bacterial infection leads to inflammation of the glomeruli, which are the tiny filtering units in the kidneys.

The symptoms of APSGN include the following:

- Swelling (edema) particularly in the face and around the eyes
- Elevated blood pressure
- Hematuria (blood in the urine)
- Proteinuria (excess protein in the urine)
- Reduced urine output

APSGN typically develops 1-3 weeks after the initial streptococcal infection. Although it can occur at any age, it is more common in children. Most cases resolve with appropriate management, although some individuals may experience complications.

2. The epidemiology of APSGN

ChatGPT

The epidemiology of APSGN includes the following key points:

1. Incidence: APSGN is most commonly observed in children aged 2-12 years. The incidence of streptococcal infections is higher in developing countries where streptococcal infections are more prevalent due to factors like overcrowding and limited access to healthcare.

2. Gender: Males are more frequently affected than females, with a male-to-female ratio of approximately

3. Seasonality: This condition often occurs in colder months, which is associated with a higher incidence of streptococcal throat infections during this time.

4. Geographical Distribution: APSGN is more common in areas where streptococcal infections (especially group A beta-hemolytic streptococci) are endemic. In developed countries, the incidence of COVID-19 has decreased significantly because of improved living conditions and antibiotic use.

5. Relation to Infection: APSGN typically follows upper respiratory tract infection (pharyngitis) or skin infection (impetigo) caused by specific Streptococcus nephritogenic strains. The risk of developing APSGN increases after infection.

6. Recurrent Cases: Most APSGN cases are acute and resolve completely. However, some individuals may experience recurrent episodes, particularly if they have repeated infections with streptococci strains.

7. Outcome: Most children recover fully with appropriate treatment, but a small percentage may develop long-term complications, such as chronic kidney disease, particularly if there is a delay in diagnosis or treatment.

Overall, although APSGN is a significant public health concern in certain populations, advances in hygiene and medical care have reduced its prevalence in many regions.

3. The pathophysiology of APSGN

The pathophysiology of APSGN involves a complex interplay between the immune response to streptococcal infection and subsequent inflammation of the glomeruli in the kidneys. Here is an overview of the key mechanisms involved:

1. Infection: APSGN typically follows a preceding infection, most commonly with nephritogenic group A beta-hemolytic streptococci. This condition can occur after pharyngitis (throat infection) or skin infection (impetigo).

2. Immune Response: After infection, the body mounts an immune response to clear the streptococcal bacteria. This response involves the production of antibodies against streptococcal antigens, particularly M protein and other streptococcal components.

3. Formation of Immune Complexes: Some of these antibodies form immune complexes with streptococcal antigens. These immune complexes can deposit in the glomeruli, which are the small filtering units of the kidneys.

4. Inflammation: The deposition of immune complexes in the glomeruli activates the complement system, which enhances the clearance of pathogens. This activation leads to inflammation, resulting in the recruitment of immune cells, such as neutrophils and macrophages, to the site.

5. Glomerular Damage: The inflammatory response causes damage to glomerular endothelial cells and podocytes (the cells that line the glomeruli). This damage disrupts the filtration barrier, leading to leakage of red blood cells (hematuria) and protein (proteinuria) leakage into the urine.

6. Clinical Manifestations: As a result of glomerular inflammation and damage, clinical symptoms such as edema (swelling), hypertension (high blood pressure), and changes in urine output and composition occur.

7. Resolution or Chronicity: In most cases, the inflammatory process resolves over time, leading to a return to normal kidney function. However, in some cases, particularly when significant or repeated damage occurs, individuals may develop chronic kidney disease.

APSGN is primarily caused by an inappropriate immune response to a preceding streptococcal infection, leading to glomerular inflammation and damage. The condition is usually self-limiting, and most patients recover completely with appropriate management.

4. What is the relationship between APSGN and the complement system?

ChatGPT

The relationship between APSGN and the complement system is crucial for understanding the pathophysiology of this disease. Here is how they are interconnected:

1. Immune Complex Formation: In APSGN, the immune response to streptococcal infection leads to the formation of immune complexes. These complexes consist of streptococcal antigens bound to antibodies produced by the body in response to infection.

2. Complement Activation: The deposited immune complexes in the glomeruli activate the complement system, which plays a key role in enhancing the inflammatory response and clearing pathogens. This activation can occur primarily through the classical pathway, although alternative and lectin pathways may also be involved.

3. Inflammation: The complement system generates various active components (such as C3a and C5a) that promote inflammation. These components attract immune cells (like neutrophils and macrophages) to the site of deposition in the glomeruli, leading to an inflammatory response.

4. Glomerular Injury: The influx of immune cells and the release of pro-inflammatory cytokines and other mediators contribute to glomerular injury. This results in increased permeability of the glomerular filtration barrier, causing hematuria (blood in urine) and proteinuria (excess protein in urine).

5. Complement Levels in APSGN: In APSGN, particularly during the acute phase, complement levels may be altered. Specifically, levels of C3 (a key complement component) are often decreased due to its consumption as it is activated in response to immune complexes. In contrast, C4 levels typically remain normal.

6. Clinical Implications: Measuring complement levels, especially C3, can help diagnose APSGN and differentiate it from other causes of glomerulonephritis. A low C3 level supports the diagnosis of APSGN, whereas persistently low C3 levels may indicate other pathologies.

In summary, the complement system plays a significant role in the pathophysiology of APSGN by mediating the inflammatory response to immune complex deposition in the glomeruli, leading to kidney injury and the clinical manifestations of the disease.

5. The clinical manifestations of APSGN

ChatGPT

The clinical manifestations of APSGN can vary in severity and presentation, but common symptoms include the following:

1. Edema: Swelling, particularly noticeable in the face (especially around the eyes) and in the lower extremities (ankles and feet) due to fluid retention.

2. Hypertension: Elevated blood pressure is common and may be significant in some cases, resulting from fluid overload and changes in kidney function.

3. Hematuria: The presence of blood in urine, which may cause urine to appear pink or cola-colored. This is due to red blood cell leakage from inflamed glomeruli.

4. Proteinuria: Urine protein levels increase, which can lead to foamy urine due to excess protein.

5. Decreased Urine Out-put: A reduction in urine production, often referred to as oliguria.

6. Fatigue: A general feeling of tiredness or malaise related to fluid overload and the body's response to inflammation.

7. Flank Pain: Some patients may experience discomfort or pain in the lower back or sides where the kidneys are located.

8 Other Symptoms: Depending on the severity of the condition, some patients may also exhibit nausea, vomiting, or headaches.

Time Course: Symptoms of APSGN typically develop 1–3 weeks after the initial streptococcal infection. The condition is often self-limiting, and most children recover fully with appropriate management.

Diagnosis: Diagnosis is typically confirmed through laboratory tests, including urinalysis (showing hematuria and proteinuria), blood tests (to check for elevated creatinine levels and complement levels), and throat or skin cultures to identify the preceding streptococcal infection.

Overall, the clinical manifestations of APSGN result from the inflammatory processes affecting the glomeruli in response to the immune reaction following streptococcal infection.

6. How is APSGN diagnosed?

ChatGPT

The diagnosis of APSGN involves a combination of clinical evaluation, laboratory tests, and imaging studies. Here, the diagnosis is typically made as follows:

1. Clinical History and Physical Examination

- **History of Recent Infection:** The clinician will inquire about a recent history of streptococcal infection, such as pharyngitis or impetigo, usually occurring 1–3 weeks before the onset of symptoms.

- **Symptoms:** The presence of symptoms like edema, hematuria, proteinuria, and hypertension, will be assessed.

- **Physical examination:** Examination for signs of fluid retention (e.g., swelling), hypertension, and general well-being.

2. Laboratory Tests

- **Urinalysis:** This is a key diagnostic test for APSGN. Typical findings include the following:
 - **Hematuria:** blood in urine, which may cause it to appear pink or cola-colored.
 - **Proteinuria:** Urine protein levels increase, often resulting in foamy urine.
 - **Red Blood Cell Casts:** May be present in urine, indicating glomerular damage.
- **Blood Tests:**
 - **Serum creatinine levels:** Elevated levels indicate impaired kidney function.
 - **Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN):** May also be elevated, reflecting reduced kidney function.
 - **Complement Levels:** C3 levels may be decreased by complement consumption during inflammation, whereas C4 levels usually remain normal.
- **Antistreptolysin O (ASO) Titer:** This test measures the presence of antibodies against streptolysin O, a toxin produced by streptococci. Elevated ASO titers suggest recent streptococcal infection.
- **Anti-DNase B Antibody Test:** This test measures antibodies against DNase B, another streptococcal enzyme. Elevated levels can also indicate recent infection.

3. Additional Testing (if necessary)

- **Throat or Skin Culture:** To identify the specific strain of streptococcus causing the infection although this is not always necessary.
- **Imaging studies:** Although not routinely required, ultrasound may be used in cases of severe kidney dysfunction or to rule out other conditions.

4. Differential Diagnosis

- The clinician will also consider and rule out other causes of glomerulonephritis or nephrotic syndrome, such as systemic lupus erythematosus, IgA nephropathy, and vasculitis.

Summary

In summary, the diagnosis of APSGN is based on a combination of clinical history, physical examination, laboratory tests (urinalysis and blood tests), and sometimes culture or imaging. The characteristic findings of hematuria, proteinuria, elevated serum creatinine, and decreased complement levels (especially C3) support the diagnosis of APSGN following a recent streptococcal infection.

7. What are the indications for renal biopsy in APSGN?

ChatGPT

Renal biopsy is generally not the first-line diagnostic tool for APSGN, as the diagnosis is typically made based on clinical history, symptoms, and laboratory findings. However, there are specific indications for renal biopsy in patients with APSGN. These include:

Indications for Renal Biopsy

1. **Atypical Presentation:** If the clinical presentation does not align with classic APSGN (e.g., absence of a recent streptococcal infection, unusual age of onset, or atypical symptoms), biopsy may help clarify the diagnosis.
2. **Persistent or Worsening Renal Dysfunction:** If a patient experiences significant and persistent renal impairment (elevated serum creatinine) beyond the typical course of APSGN or has worsening kidney function despite conservative management, a biopsy may be warranted to assess for other underlying renal pathologies.

3. Severe or Unusual Clinical Features: If the patient presents with severe symptoms, such as significant hypertension, severe edema, or nephrotic syndrome (massive proteinuria), renal biopsy may help determine the underlying cause.

4. Failure to Respond to Treatment: If a patient with APSGN does not show expected improvement in symptoms or laboratory findings (e.g., persistent proteinuria or hematuria) after appropriate treatment, biopsy can help identify alternative diagnoses or complications.

5. Consideration of Other Causes: In cases with suspicion of other forms of glomerulonephritis (e.g., IgA nephropathy, membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis, or systemic diseases like lupus), biopsy may be needed to differentiate these conditions from APSGN.

6. Recurrent Episodes: If a patient experiences recurrent episodes of glomerulonephritis, biopsy may help to identify the underlying etiology.

Conclusion

Although renal biopsy is not routinely performed for APSGN, it can be indicated in specific circumstances where the clinical picture is atypical or when there is concern for other renal conditions. The decision to perform a biopsy should be based on a thorough clinical evaluation and discussion with the patient or his/her caregiver.

The treatment of APSGN

ChatGPT

The treatment of APSGN is primarily supportive, focusing on managing symptoms and complications. Here, we provide an overview of the treatment approach:

1. Supportive Care

- **Monitoring:** Regular monitoring of blood pressure, urine output, and kidney function (serum creatinine and electrolytes) is essential.
- **Rest:** Bed rest may be recommended in patients with significant edema or hypertension.

2. Management of Hypertension

- **Antihypertensive Medications:** If the patient presents with hypertension, medications such as diuretics, ACE inhibitors, or other antihypertensives may be administered to help control blood pressure.

3. Diuretics

- **Fluid Management:** Diuretics (e.g., furosemide) may be prescribed to help manage fluid overload and edema, thereby promoting diuresis (increased urine production).

4. Nutritional Support

- **Sodium and Fluid Restriction:** A low-sodium diet and possibly fluid restriction may be advised to help manage edema and hypertension.

5. Treating Infections

- **Antibiotics:** Although APSGN itself does not require antibiotic treatment, appropriate antibiotics (such as penicillin or amoxicillin) should be administered if there is an active streptococcal infection (e.g., a persistent throat infection), appropriate antibiotics (such as penicillin or amoxicillin) should be administered to clear the infection and prevent recurrence.

6. Management of Complications

- **Electrolyte Imbalances:** Monitoring and correcting electrolyte imbalances (such as hyperkalemia) may be necessary.

- **Severe Cases:** In rare cases where significant kidney dysfunction or complications arise (such as acute kidney injury), more intensive treatment, such as dialysis, may be required.

7. Follow-Up

- **Long-Term Monitoring:** Patients should be followed up regularly to monitor kidney function and any lingering symptoms. Most patients recover completely, but a small percentage may develop chronic kidney disease.

Conclusion

The treatment of APSGN is generally supportive, focusing on managing symptoms, controlling blood pressure, and ensuring fluid balance. Most patients respond well to treatment and experience full recovery. The prognosis is generally good, particularly in children, with complete resolution of symptoms and renal function in most cases.

9. What drugs are available for the treatment of APSGN?

ChatGPT

The treatment of APSGN is primarily supportive, but certain medications may be used to manage symptoms and complications. Here, we present a list of drugs that can be used for the treatment of APSGN:

1. Antihypertensive Medications

- **Diuretics:**

- Furosemide (Lasix): Used to manage fluid overload and edema by promoting diuresis.

- **ACE Inhibitors:**

- Enalapril, Lisinopril: May be used to control hypertension and reduce proteinuria.

- **Calcium Channel Blockers:**

- Amlodipine, Diltiazem: Can also be used for hypertensive management.

2. Corticosteroids

- **Prednisone:** In certain cases with severe or persistent inflammation, corticosteroids may be prescribed to reduce inflammation. This is not common in uncomplicated APSGN.

3. Antibiotics

- **Penicillin or azoxycillin:** If there is a persistent streptococcal infection (e.g., throat infection), antibiotics should be used to relieve the infection and prevent further complications. These agents are not used to treat APSGN directly but to address the underlying infection that precipitated the condition.

4. Electrolyte Management

- **Potassium Binders:**

- **Sodium Polystyrene Sulfonate (Kayexalate):** If hyperkalemia (high potassium levels) occurs, potassium binders may be used.

- **Calcium Gluconate:** Used in severe hyperkalemia to stabilize cardiac membranes.

5. Phosphate Binders

If renal impairment leads to elevated phosphate levels, phosphate binders may be used to manage hyperphosphatemia.

Conclusion

The primary approach in the management of APSGN focuses on supportive care, including hypertension and fluid overload. The medications listed above may be used as needed to alleviate symptoms and complications associated

with the condition. It is important to tailor treatment to individual patient needs and monitor progress closely. Most patients with APSGN recover fully with appropriate management.

10. Other immunosuppressive agents other than steroids in APSGN

ChatGPT

In APSGN, supportive care is the primary treatment, and corticosteroids are typically the main immunosuppressive therapy used in cases of severe inflammation or persistent symptoms. However, other immunosuppressive agents are generally not indicated for routine management of APSGN because the condition is usually self-limiting and resolves with supportive care.

However, in certain atypical cases or when severe or resistant cases need to be managed, additional immunosuppressive agents may be considered. These might include the following:

1. Cyclophosphamide

- An alkylating agent that suppresses the immune response may be used in severe cases in which steroid therapy is inadequate or in cases with complications.

2. Azathioprine

- Immunosuppressive drugs that inhibit the proliferation of immune cells. It may be considered in patients with significant kidney involvement or when there is suspicion of another underlying glomerulonephritis.

3. Mycophenolate Mofetil (MMF)

- A more selective immunosuppressive agent that inhibits lymphocyte proliferation. It may be used in patients with persistent disease, although it is more common in patients with chronic or progressive glomerulonephritis.

4. Rituximab

- A monoclonal antibody targeting CD20 in B cells, which is used primarily in cases of autoimmune diseases or resistant cases of glomerulonephritis. Its use in APSGN is not standard but may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

When to Consider Additional Immunosuppressive Agents

The use of these agents is not standard for APSGN and is typically only considered in specific situations, such as the following:

- Severe, persistent symptoms or significant renal impairment.
- Atypical presentation or rapid deterioration in kidney function.
- Diagnosis of a different underlying condition that may warrant immunosuppression.

Conclusion

In routine cases of APSGN, the emphasis is on supportive management, and additional immunosuppressive therapy is rarely required. If there are complexities in the clinical scenario, consultation with a nephrologist is essential to tailor the management appropriately.

11. How should clinical and laboratory findings be monitored during follow-up of APSGN?

ChatGPT

Monitoring clinical and laboratory findings during follow-up of APSGN is crucial for assessing recovery and identifying potential complications. Here, we describe how to approach this follow-up care:

1. Clinical Monitoring

- **Symptom assessment:** The symptoms are regularly evaluated for resolution, such as
 - **Edema:** Monitor for reduction in swelling, particularly in the face and extremities.
 - **Hypertension:** Monitor blood pressure regularly; hypertension may require control.
 - **Urine changes:** Urine appearance, frequency, and output should be assessed.
- **General health:** The overall well-being of the patient is evaluated, with consideration of signs of fatigue or malaise.

2. Laboratory Monitoring

• Urinalysis:

Hematuria and proteinuria: Urine urine should be monitored for the presence of blood and protein. Although hematuria may take weeks to resolve, significant proteinuria should decrease over time.

Urine microscopy: examination for red blood cells, white blood cells, and casts.

• Serum Tests:

- **Serum Creatinine:** Monitor kidney function by measuring serum creatinine levels at regular intervals. An initial rise may occur, but the levels should normalize as recovery progresses.

- **Electrolytes:** Regular check for electrolyte imbalances, particularly potassium, sodium, and phosphate, particularly if there are concerns about renal function.

- **Complement Levels:** Measure C3 levels to assess recovery; C3 should return to normal as the condition resolves.

- **Antistreptolysin O (ASO) Titer:** If needed, repeat testing to check for the resolution of streptococcal infection, although this is not routinely required in all cases.

3. Frequency of Monitoring

- **Initial Follow-Up:** Follow-up visits should be scheduled within 1-2 weeks after the initial diagnosis to assess symptom resolution and to perform repeat laboratory tests.

- **Subsequent Follow-Ups:** Depending on the clinical status, follow-up visits may be extended every 4–6 weeks, gradually extending to longer intervals as recovery occurs.

4. Long-Term Monitoring

- **Continued Assessment:** Even after recovery, some patients may require long-term follow-up for potential complications or recurrent issues, particularly if they have concerns about chronic kidney disease or other underlying conditions.

Conclusion

Regular clinical evaluations and laboratory tests are essential during follow-up of patients with APSGN to ensure full recovery and to identify potential complications early. Collaboration with a healthcare provider specializing in nephrology may be beneficial for managing ongoing care and monitoring. Most patients with APSGN experience complete resolution of symptoms and renal function with appropriate monitoring and support.

12. The prognosis of APSGN

ChatGPT

The prognosis of APSGN is generally favorable, particularly in children. Here are key points regarding the prognosis:

1. Complete Recovery

- **High recovery rate:** Most patients, especially children, experience complete recovery of kidney function and resolution of symptoms. Most cases of APSGN are self-limiting.

2. Time Frame for Recovery

- **Symptom Resolution:** Symptoms such as edema, hypertension, hematuria, and proteinuria typically begin to improve within weeks.

- **Renal Function:** Serum creatinine levels usually normalize within a few weeks to months after the acute phase of the illness.

3. Recurrence

- **Uncommon:** APSGN recurrence after the initial episode is rare. However, patients who experience recurrent infections caused by nephritogenic strains of streptococcus may be at risk of additional episodes.

4. Long-Term Complications

- **Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD):** While most patients recover fully, a small percentage may develop long-term complications, such as CKD. This is more common in adults than in children and typically occurs in cases with more severe initial presentations or in those with pre-existing renal conditions.

5. Factors Influencing Prognosis

- **Age:** Younger patients, especially children, tend to have a better prognosis than adults.
- **Severity of Initial Presentation:** Patients with severe hypertension, significant renal impairment, or persistent symptoms may have a less favorable prognosis and require closer monitoring.
- **Timeliness of Management:** Early recognition and appropriate management can improve outcomes.

Conclusion

In summary, the prognosis of APSGN is generally excellent, and most patients recover completely without long-term complications. However, individual outcomes can vary based on factors such as age, illness severity, and underlying health conditions. Regular follow-up and monitoring are essential for ensuring complete recovery and addressing any potential complications.

Supplemental File 2. Clinical and laboratory characteristics of Case 4-11 referred to AI and diagnosis and treatment recommendations by AI

Case 4

5-year-old girl: A patient presents to the emergency department with bloody urine. It was learned that she had fever and sore throat 10 days ago, was diagnosed with tonsillitis, started on antibiotics at the family health center, but did not continue treatment after 2 days when her symptoms improved. On examination, her blood pressure was measured at 86/64 mm Hg (39th and 89th percentiles, respectively). Laboratory findings showed serum creatinine 0.5 mg/dL, serum albumin 3.6 g/L, Na 139 mmol/L, K 5 mmol/L, Ca 9.1 mg/dL, and P 4.3 mg/dL. Urinalysis revealed a red blood cell count of 168/HPF and spot urine protein/creatinine ratio of 2.4 mg/mg. The complement C3 level was low at 0.26 g/L, and the ASO level was high at 1023 IU/mL. The throat culture shows growth of Group A beta-hemolytic streptococcus 1 day later.

What is the patient's diagnosis? What medications should be initiated for treatment? What points should be noted during follow-up?

ChatGPT Response

Based on the clinical information, the diagnosis of this patient was acute poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis (APSGN). Here is what should be done in terms of treatment and follow-up:

1. Treatment:

- Antibiotic treatment to eradicate group A beta-hemolytic streptococcal infection is essential. Penicillin or another appropriate antibiotic targeting streptococcus should be administered.
- Management of hyperkalemia is essential. Given the high serum potassium level, measures to lower potassium levels should be initiated promptly, such as dietary restriction of potassium and possibly administration of potassium-lowering medications like loop diuretics and potassium binders. Inhaled salbutamol and insulin can also be administered to selected patients.
- Supportive care to manage symptoms and complications. This step may include rest, fluid management, and monitoring for hypertension or fluid overload.

2. Follow-up:

- The close monitoring of clinical and laboratory parameters during the follow-up period.
- Regular assessment of blood pressure to detect hypertension, which can develop or worsen during the course of APSGN.
- Monitoring urine output and urine characteristics, including hematuria and proteinuria, to evaluate kidney function and recovery.
- Periodic measurement of serum creatinine and complement levels to assess renal function and resolution of the inflammatory process.
- Education and counseling for the patient and family regarding the importance of completing antibiotic treatment, adhering to follow-up appointments, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Additional points to consider during follow-up:

- **Long-term sequelae:** Although APSGN generally has a good prognosis, some patients may develop complications, such as persistent hypertension or chronic kidney disease. Long-term follow-up is important to monitor the development of these complications and provide appropriate management.
- **Education:** It is essential to educate patients and caregivers about the signs and symptoms of complications and the importance of seeking medical attention if complications occur.

- **Psychosocial support:** Chronic illness can have a significant impact on children and their families. Providing psychosocial support and resources may help cope with the diagnosis and associated challenges.
- **Prevention:** The importance of preventive measures, such as good hygiene practices, to reduce the risk of recurrent streptococcal infections, which can help prevent future episodes of APSGN.

Case 5

12.5-year-old boy: He presented with bloody urine. It was learned that he had an upper respiratory tract infection about 15 days ago. On examination, his blood pressure was 120/80 mm Hg (95th and 97th percentiles, respectively). Laboratory findings showed serum creatinine (0.88 mg/dL, serum albumin (4 g/L, Na 142 mmol/L, K 4.7 mmol/L, Ca 9.3 mg/dL, and P (4.7 mg/dL. Urinalysis revealed a red blood cell count of 177/HPF and a spot urine protein/creatinine ratio of 1.2 mg/mg. The complement C3 level was 0.78 g/L (normal range 0.9 – 1.2), and the ASO level was 1320 IU/mL (elevated, normal <150). The throat culture revealed no growth.

What is the patient's diagnosis? What medications should be initiated for treatment? What points should be noted during follow-up?

ChatGPT Response

Based on the clinical information, the diagnosis of this patient was likely acute poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis (APSGN). Here is what should be done in terms of treatment and follow-up:

1. Diagnosis:

- **Acute Poststreptococcal Glomerulonephritis (APSGN):** This condition is suggested by a history of recent upper respiratory tract infection, high ASO titers, slightly low serum C3 levels, presence of hematuria and proteinuria, and hypertension.

2. Treatment:

- **Antibiotics:** Although the throat culture result was negative, the high ASO titer suggests recent streptococcal infection. However, antibiotics are not considered if the culture is negative.
- **Management of hypertension:** Blood pressure control is essential in the presence of hypertension. Depending on the severity of hypertension, antihypertensive medications, such as angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (ACE inhibitors) or angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs), may be administered.
- **Supportive care:** Supportive measures include rest, fluid balance, and monitoring for signs of fluid overload or electrolyte imbalance.

3. Follow-up:

- **Blood pressure monitoring:** Regular blood pressure monitoring is essential for assessing response to treatment and preventing complications associated with hypertension.
- **Renal function monitoring:** Periodic assessment of renal function, including serum creatinine and urine output, is necessary to evaluate renal function and recovery.
- **Follow-up urine analysis:** Urine analysis for hematuria and proteinuria can help assess the resolution of renal inflammation and injury.
- **Serum complement levels:** Although slightly low, serum complement levels may normalize as the inflammatory process resolves. Periodic monitoring of complement levels can provide additional information about disease activity and response to treatment.
- **Education and support:** Provide education to the patient and family about the condition, treatment plan, and importance of adherence to follow-up appointments. Emphasizing the signs and symptoms of complications and encouraging early reporting of any concerns or changes in health status.

Case 6

7.3-year-old boy: He presented with bloody urine. It was learned that he had an upper respiratory tract infection about 7 days ago. On examination, his blood pressure was 110/60 mm Hg (78th and 44th percentiles, respectively). Laboratory findings showed serum creatinine (0.79 mg/dL, serum albumin (4 g/L, Na 139 mmol/L, K 4.6 mmol/L, Ca 8.9 mg/dL, and P (4.6 mg/dL. Urinalysis revealed a red blood cell count of 897/HPF and a spot urine protein/creatinine ratio of 3.19 mg/mg. The complement C3 level was 0.55 g/L (low) and the ASO level was 788 IU/mL (high). The throat culture shows the growth of group A beta-hemolytic streptococcus.

What is the patient's diagnosis? What medications should be initiated for treatment? What points should be noted during follow-up?

ChatGPT Response

Based on the clinical information, the diagnosis of this patient was acute poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis (APSGN). Here is what should be done in terms of treatment and follow-up:

1. Treatment:

- Antibiotic treatment to eradicate group A beta-hemolytic streptococcal infection is essential. Penicillin or another appropriate antibiotic targeting streptococcus should be administered.
- Supportive care to manage symptoms and complications. This step may include rest, fluid management, and monitoring for hypertension or fluid overload.

2. Follow-up:

- The close monitoring of clinical and laboratory parameters during the follow-up period.
- Regular assessment of blood pressure to detect hypertension, which can develop or worsen during the course of APSGN.
- Monitoring urine output and urine characteristics, including hematuria and proteinuria, to evaluate kidney function and recovery.
- Periodic measurement of serum creatinine and complement levels to assess renal function and resolution of the inflammatory process.
- Education and counseling for the patient and family regarding the importance of completing antibiotic treatment, adhering to follow-up appointments, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Additional points to consider during follow-up:

- **Long-term sequelae:** Although APSGN generally has a good prognosis, some patients may develop complications, such as persistent hypertension or chronic kidney disease. Long-term follow-up is important to monitor the development of these complications and provide appropriate management.
- **Education:** It is essential to educate patients and caregivers about the signs and symptoms of complications and the importance of seeking medical attention if complications occur.
- **Psychosocial support:** Chronic illness can have a significant impact on children and their families. Providing psychosocial support and resources may help cope with the diagnosis and associated challenges.
- **Prevention:** The importance of preventive measures, such as good hygiene practices, to reduce the risk of recurrent streptococcal infections, which can help prevent future episodes of APSGN.

Case 7

8.9-year-old boy: He presented with bloody urine. It was learned that he had an upper respiratory tract infection about 7 days ago. On examination, his blood pressure was 100/60 mm Hg (58th and 53rd percentiles, respectively). Laboratory findings showed serum creatinine (1.84 mg/dL, serum albumin (3.4 g/L, Na 135 mmol/L, K 5.2 mmol/L, Ca 9.1 mg/dL, and P (5.9 mg/dL. Urinalysis revealed a red blood cell count of 31,71/HPF and a spot urine protein:creatinine ratio of 4.32 mg/mg. The complement C3 level was 0.77 g/L (low) and the ASO level was 638 IU/mL (high). The throat culture revealed no growth.

What is the patient's diagnosis? What medications should be initiated for treatment? What points should be noted during follow-up?

ChatGPT Response

Based on the clinical information, the diagnosis of this patient was acute poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis (APSGN). Here is what should be done in terms of treatment and follow-up:

1. Treatment:

- **Antibiotics:** Although the throat culture result was negative, the high ASO titer suggests recent streptococcal infection. However, antibiotics are not considered if the culture is negative.
- Management of hyperkalemia is essential. Given the high serum potassium level, measures to lower potassium levels should be initiated promptly, such as dietary restriction of potassium and possibly administration of potassium-lowering medications like loop diuretics and potassium binders. Inhaled salbutamol and insulin can also be administered to selected patients.
- Supportive care to manage symptoms and complications. This step may include rest, fluid management, and monitoring for hypertension or fluid overload.

2. Follow-up:

- The close monitoring of clinical and laboratory parameters during the follow-up period.
- Regular assessment of blood pressure to detect hypertension, which can develop or worsen during the course of APSGN.
- Monitoring urine output and urine characteristics, including hematuria and proteinuria, to evaluate kidney function and recovery.
- Periodic measurement of serum creatinine and complement levels to assess renal function and resolution of the inflammatory process.
- Education and counseling for the patient and family regarding the importance of completing antibiotic treatment, adhering to follow-up appointments, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Additional points to consider during follow-up:

- **Long-term sequelae:** Although APSGN generally has a good prognosis, some patients may develop complications, such as persistent hypertension or chronic kidney disease. Long-term follow-up is important to monitor the development of these complications and provide appropriate management.
- **Education:** It is essential to educate patients and caregivers about the signs and symptoms of complications and the importance of seeking medical attention if complications occur.
- **Psychosocial support:** Chronic illness can have a significant impact on children and their families. Providing psychosocial support and resources may help cope with the diagnosis and associated challenges.
- **Prevention:** The importance of preventive measures, such as good hygiene practices, to reduce the risk of recurrent streptococcal infections, which can help prevent future episodes of APSGN.

Case 8

16.3-year-old boy: This patient presented with a sore throat, weakness, and mild fever for the past week. On examination, his blood pressure was 120/80 mm Hg (70th and 91st percentiles, respectively). Laboratory findings showed serum creatinine 2.02 mg/dL, serum albumin 4.1 g/L, Na 143 mmol/L, K 4.6 mmol/L, Ca 8.9 mg/dL, and P 3.8 mg/dL. Urinalysis revealed a red blood cell count of 10/HPF and a spot urine protein:creatinine ratio of 0.23 mg/mg. The complement C3 level was 1.17 g/L, and the ASO level was 488 IU/mL. The throat culture shows the growth of group A beta-hemolytic streptococcus.

What is the patient's diagnosis? What medications should be initiated for treatment? What points should be noted during follow-up?

ChatGPT Response

Based on the information provided, the diagnosis of the 16.3-year-old male patient was acute poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis (APSGN). This diagnosis is supported by a history of upper respiratory tract infection caused by beta-hemolytic streptococcus, elevated ASO (anti-streptolysin O) titer, normal serum C3 levels, high serum creatinine levels, hematuria, and proteinuria.

Treatment for APSGN typically involves the following processes:

1. Supportive care: This includes rest, adequate hydration, and symptomatic management of any associated symptoms.

2. Blood pressure monitoring: Although the blood pressure is normal in this case, regular monitoring is important to detect any potential changes, especially if hypertension develops.

3. Antibiotics: Antibiotics may be prescribed to eradicate streptococcal infection and prevent further complications. Penicillin or other appropriate antibiotics are typically used.

In follow-up:

1. Regular monitoring of renal function, including serum creatinine levels, is essential for assessing renal function and monitoring for any worsening of the condition.

2. Monitoring of blood pressure, urine protein:creatinine ratio, and urine sediment should be performed to assess response to treatment and monitor for any complications.

3. Close communication with the nephrologist is important for ongoing management and treatment adjustment.

4. Education and support for the patient and family regarding medication adherence, follow-up appointments, and lifestyle modifications are important for long-term management.

Given the potential for complications, such as hypertension and renal impairment, regular follow-up with a nephrologist is crucial to ensure appropriate management and monitoring of APSGN.

Case 9

11.2-year-old girl: The patient presented with eyelid and leg edema. It was learned that she had an upper respiratory tract infection about 10 days ago. On examination, her blood pressure was 100/60 mm Hg (49th and 47th percentiles, respectively). Laboratory findings showed serum creatinine (0.68 mg/dL, serum albumin (4.1 g/L, Na 140 mmol/L, K 4 mmol/L, Ca 9.2 mg/dL, and P (4.3 mg/dL. Urinalysis revealed a red blood cell count of 17/HPF and a spot urine protein:creatinine ratio of 0.19 mg/mg. The complement C3 level was 0.35 g/L, and the ASO level was 730 IU/mL. The throat culture revealed no growth.

What is the patient's diagnosis? What medications should be initiated for treatment? What points should be noted during follow-up?

ChatGPT Response

Based on the information provided, the diagnosis of the 11.2-year-old female patient was acute poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis (APSGN). This diagnosis is supported by a history of upper respiratory tract infection, significantly elevated ASO (anti-streptolysin O) titer, markedly low serum C3 levels, and hematuria.

Treatment and management of APSGN in this case would involve the following

1. Supportive care: This includes managing edema and addressing any associated symptoms, such as fatigue and malaise. Dietary modification is recommended to restrict salt intake and manage fluid retention.

2. Blood pressure monitoring: Although the blood pressure was normal in this case, regular monitoring was essential to detect any potential changes, as hypertension can develop in some cases of APSGN.

3. Antibiotics: Although the throat culture result was negative, the high ASO titer suggests recent streptococcal infection. However, antibiotics are not considered if the culture is negative.

Drug therapy:

• In the absence of hypertension or significant proteinuria, specific drug therapy may not be required. However, if hypertension develops or significant proteinuria and declining kidney function occur, ACE inhibitors (ACEi) or angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARBs) may be considered to help manage blood pressure and reduce proteinuria.

In follow-up:

1. Regular monitoring of renal function, including serum creatinine and urine sediment, is essential for assessing renal function and monitoring for any worsening of the condition.

2. Monitoring of blood pressure and urine protein:creatinine ratio should be performed to assess response to treatment and monitor for any complications.

3. Close communication with a nephrologist or pediatrician is important for ongoing management and treatment adjustment, as needed.

4. Education and support for the patient and family regarding medication adherence, follow-up appointments, and lifestyle modifications are important for long-term management.

Given the potential for complications, such as hypertension and renal impairment, regular follow-up with healthcare providers is crucial to ensure appropriate management and monitoring of APSGN.

Case 10

6-year-old boy: He presented with foot swelling. It was learned that he had an upper respiratory tract infection 9 days ago. On examination, his blood pressure was 160/100 mm Hg (above 99th percentile for both). Laboratory findings showed serum creatinine (0.87 mg/dL, serum albumin (3.1 g/L, Na 134 mmol/L, K 5.5 mmol/L, Ca 8.6 mg/dL, and P 5.8 mg/dL. Urinalysis revealed a red blood cell count of 141/HPF and a spot urine protein/creatinine ratio of 2.39 mg/mg. The complement C3 level was 0.24 g/L, and the ASO level was 578 IU/mL. The throat culture revealed no growth.

What is the patient's diagnosis? What medications should be initiated for treatment? What points should be noted during follow-up?

Based on the clinical information, the diagnosis of this patient was likely acute poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis (APSGN). Here is what should be done in terms of treatment and follow-up:

1. Diagnosis:

- **Acute Poststreptococcal Glomerulonephritis (APSGN):** This condition is suggested by a history of recent upper respiratory tract infection, high ASO titers, slightly low serum C3 levels, presence of hematuria and proteinuria, and hypertension.

2. Treatment:

- **Antibiotics:** Although the throat culture result was negative, the high ASO titer suggests recent streptococcal infection. However, antibiotics are not considered if the culture is negative.

- **Management of hyperkalemia:** Given the high serum potassium level, measures to lower potassium levels should be initiated promptly, such as dietary restriction of potassium and possibly administration of potassium-lowering medications like loop diuretics and potassium binders. Inhaled salbutamol and insulin can also be administered to selected patients.

- **Management of hypertension:** Blood pressure control is essential in the presence of hypertension. Depending on the severity of hypertension, antihypertensive medications, such as angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (ACE inhibitors) or angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs), may be administered.

- **Supportive care:** Supportive measures include rest, fluid balance, and monitoring for signs of fluid overload or electrolyte imbalance.

3. Follow-up:

- **Blood pressure monitoring:** Regular blood pressure monitoring is essential for assessing response to treatment and preventing complications associated with hypertension.

- **Renal function monitoring:** Periodic assessment of renal function, including serum creatinine and urine output, is necessary to evaluate renal function and recovery.

- **Follow-up urine analysis:** Urine analysis for hematuria and proteinuria can help assess the resolution of renal inflammation and injury.

- **Serum complement levels:** Although slightly low, serum complement levels may normalize as the inflammatory process resolves. Periodic monitoring of complement levels can provide additional information about disease activity and response to treatment.

- **Education and support:** Provide education to the patient and family about the condition, treatment plan, and importance of adherence to follow-up appointments. Emphasizing the signs and symptoms of complications and encouraging early reporting of any concerns or changes in health status.

Case 11

5-year-old boy: He presented with bloody urine. It was learned that he had an upper respiratory tract infection about 10 days ago. On examination, his blood pressure was 84/62 mm Hg (38th and 87th percentiles, respectively). Laboratory findings showed serum creatinine (0.50 mg/dL, serum albumin (3.6 g/L, Na 139 mmol/L, K 5 mmol/L, Ca 9.1 mg/dL, and P (4.3 mg/dL. Urinalysis revealed a red blood cell count of 168/HPF and a spot urine protein/creatinine ratio of 2.40 mg/mg. The complement C3 level was 0.26 g/L (low) and the ASO level was 1023 IU/mL (high). The throat culture shows Group A beta-hemolytic streptococcus.

What is the patient's diagnosis? What medications should be initiated for treatment? What points should be noted during follow-up?

ChatGPT Response

Based on the clinical information, the diagnosis of this patient was acute poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis (APSGN). Here is what should be done in terms of treatment and follow-up:

1. Treatment:

- Antibiotic treatment to eradicate group A beta-hemolytic streptococcal infection is essential. Penicillin or another appropriate antibiotic targeting streptococcus should be administered.
- Management of hyperkalemia is essential. Given the high serum potassium level, measures to lower potassium levels should be initiated promptly, such as dietary restriction of potassium and possibly administration of potassium-lowering medications like loop diuretics and potassium binders. Inhaled salbutamol and insulin can also be administered to selected patients.
- Supportive care to manage symptoms and complications. This step may include rest, fluid management, and monitoring for hypertension or fluid overload.

2. Follow-up:

- The close monitoring of clinical and laboratory parameters during the follow-up period.
- Regular assessment of blood pressure to detect hypertension, which can develop or worsen during the course of APSGN.
- Monitoring urine output and urine characteristics, including hematuria and proteinuria, to evaluate kidney function and recovery.
- Periodic measurement of serum creatinine and complement levels to assess renal function and resolution of the inflammatory process.
- Education and counseling for the patient and family regarding the importance of completing antibiotic treatment, adhering to follow-up appointments, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Additional points to consider during follow-up:

- **Long-term sequelae:** Although APSGN generally has a good prognosis, some patients may develop complications, such as persistent hypertension or chronic kidney disease. Long-term follow-up is important to monitor the development of these complications and provide appropriate management.
- **Education:** It is essential to educate patients and caregivers about the signs and symptoms of complications and the importance of seeking medical attention if complications occur.
- **Psychosocial support:** Chronic illness can have a significant impact on children and their families. Providing psychosocial support and resources may help cope with the diagnosis and associated challenges.
- **Prevention:** The importance of preventive measures, such as good hygiene practices, to reduce the risk of recurrent streptococcal infections, which can help prevent future episodes of APSGN.