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Clinical and histopathological pattern of glomerular disease diagnosed by kidney biopsy: A single-center experience

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Objectives: Kidney biopsy is not only the most important tool for diagnosis of glomerular disease, but it can also be helpful in determining treatment and prognosis. Pathological spectrums are varied according to country, region, race, sex, or age. We aim to investigate the pathological spectrum of biopsy-proven kidney disease for the first time in our hospital.

Methods: We retrospectively analyzed a total of 631 patients who underwent a kidney biopsy between 2013 and 2019 at the Gyeongsang National University Hospital. Clinical data including pathological, demographic and laboratory findings of patients were used for analysis.

Results:

The average age of 631 patients was 51.5 ± 18.1 years old, and 361 patients (57.2%) were male. The average eGFR was 68.0 ± 45.7 mL/min/1.73 m². The average SBP for 2017, 2018 and 2019 is higher than the average SBP for 2013 ($p=0.002$). Hypertension (47.4%) was the most common disease as comorbidities and followed by diabetes (18.23%) and dyslipidemia (10.9%). The most common clinical syndrome at the time of biopsy was nephrotic syndrome (33.9%). The distribution of pathological diagnosis was 72.5% for primary glomerular disease, 14.9% for secondary glomerular disease, 6.2% for tubulointerstitial disease, and 0.8% for vascular disease. IgA nephropathy (IgAN) was the most common primary glomerular disease (34.4%), followed by focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, membranous nephropathy (MN) and minimal change disease. Diabetic nephropathy was the most common secondary glomerular disease, followed by lupus nephritis and hypertensive nephropathy. The most common disease in asymptomatic urinary abnormality and nephrotic syndrome was IgAN (59.6%) and MN (18.7%), respectively.

Conclusions: This is the first report of our hospital's cohort of kidney biopsies. IgAN and diabetic nephropathy were the most common primary and secondary glomerular disease, respectively. Except for the frequency of secondary glomerular disease, there was no difference between the cohort of our hospital and other cohorts of South Korea.