

Abstract Submission No.: A-0205

A case of severe acute kidney injury in a patient with lupus nephritis

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Case Study : Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a systemic autoimmune disease in which multiple organs are damaged. Lupus nephritis is a major risk factor for overall mortality and morbidity of patients with SLE. We report a case of acute kidney injury in a patient with lupus nephritis accompanied by intra-arterial thrombus. A 24-year-old Korean man visited the emergency department for evaluation of edema. On admission, his initial vital signs indicated blood pressure of 190/90 mmHg, heart rate of 99 beats per minute, temperature of 36.6°C, and respiratory rate of 20 breaths per minute. Physical examination revealed edema and red to purple rash involving the cheeks. Initial laboratory testing revealed anemia with hemoglobin of 4.1g/dL, leukopenia ($2.5 \times 10^3/\mu\text{L}$) and thrombocytopenia ($99 \times 10^3/\mu\text{L}$). Laboratory results also revealed serum creatinine of 26.6 mg/dL and serum potassium of 8.2mEq/L. We started continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT). Serological studies revealed Antinuclear antibody 1:1280, anti-dsDNA 380 IU/mL, C3 23.4 mg/dL, and C4 3.6 mg/dL. Based on these test results, a preliminary diagnosis of SLE was made. We changed the CRRT to intermittent hemodialysis. Renal biopsy was performed. Light microscopy showed arteriosclerosis with luminal thrombi. He was given intravenous prednisone at a dose of 1 g/d for 3days, followed by 60mg oral prednisone per day, which was slowly tapered. Moreover, 1000mg intravenous cyclophosphamide was prescribed to be taken once a month. He was discharged on 33 day, and his kidney function gradually improved, and he stopped hemodialysis at 5 months. Following induction treatment, mycophenolate mofetil 1 g/d were given later. After 2 year of maintenance treatment, the patient's renal function remained normal with a creatinine level of 1.1 mg/dL(Figure 1). Kidney rebiopsy was performed, and biopsy showed Lupus nephritis class V and II. Based on the patient's laboratory finding and biopsy results, it was decided to continue the maintenance therapy

Fig1.jpg

