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Session Topic : -

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## **B Cell Depletion in Podocytopathy**

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There is a big progress in understanding of podocytopathies, a term summarizing the histopathologic lesions "minimal change disease" (MCD) and "focal segmental glomerulosclerosis" (FSGS). The identification of antibodies against components of the slit diaphragm of the podocytes, i.e. anti-nephrin antibodies, has contributed to our understanding of these diseases and provided a framework for managing these diseases with B cell depleting agents. In the Lecture, we will focus on current therapies of these diseases and outline why and how B cell depleting agents should be used and their value needs to be acknowledged in revised international guidelines. Our recent study found that among 119 patients with MCD and 64 with FSGS, 95 and 52.5% achieved remission following rituximab administration. Disease relapses could be prevented by administering maintenance doses of rituximab. There is a good safety profile of rituximab. We will also discuss the outlook and why we believe that novel B cell depleting agents are likely replacing rituximab in this indication.

**Keywords:** Rituximab, FSGS, MCD, Podocytopathy, Obinutuzumab