THE CLINICOPATHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF IDIOPATHIC MEMBRANOUS NEPHROPATHY IN YOUNG ADULTS

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INTRODUCTION: This paper aimed to analyze the clinicopathological characteristics of young patients with idiopathic membranous nephropathy (IMN).

METHODS: To collect the general data, the clinical data and the pathological results of IMN patients, we screened the IMN patients from the First Affiliated Hospital of Zhengzhou University, and divided the IMN patients into the youth group (18~45 years old) and the middle aged and elderly group (≥45 years old) according to their age. In addition, we analyzed the clinicopathological differences between these two groups.

RESULTS: 232 IMN patients were selected, and the ratio of male to female in the youth group and the other group was 45/33 and 73/81, respectively. Compared with the middle aged and elderly group, the Youth group had higher leukocyte, hemoglobin, lymphocyte and estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) (P<0.05), and lower systolic blood pressure, urea nitrogen (P<0.05). The serum creatinine, serum albumin, 24-hour urinary protein and plasma anti-PLA2R antibody between these two groups were not statistically significant (P>0.05). The youth group was mainly the stages 1- II and II, and the other group was mainly the stage II. The ratio of stage III in the youth group was lower than that in the other group (P<0.05). However, in general, the difference between these two groups was not statistically significant (P>0.05). Also, the youth group had lower Glomerular sclerosis score, incidence rate of small vessel wall thickening, incidence rate of hyaline degeneration and renal tubular atrophy score (P<0.05). Both groups were all mainly positive in IgG, IgG4, C3, and the difference between these two groups was not statistically significant. The qualitative difference of PLA2R between two groups was statistically significant (P=0.008) and the positive rate of PLA2R in the youth group was lower than that in the other group.

CONCLUSIONS: Both groups have common features as well as the differences. Clinicopathological characteristics suggested that the prognosis of young patients with IMN may be better than that of the Middle aged and elderly people.