Thin Glomerular Basement Membrane Disease (TGBM) in Bahrain– Light and Electronmicroscopic Study

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Objective: To study clinicopathological (CP) and light and electromicroscopic (EM) characteristics of Thin Glomerular Basement Membrane (TGBM) Disease.

Method: Renal biopsies of six patients diagnosed between 1996-2000 as having TGBM disease.

Results: The age of patients ranged from 27-50 years with female predominance. There is family history of renal disease, haematuria, proteinuria and hypertension in two patients. One patient terminated in end stage renal disease. Light microscopy showed normal glomerular and tubulointerstitial compartment. Immunofluorescence studies were negative. EM confirmed the clinicopathological diagnosis showing diffuse attenuation of the glomerular basement membrane.

Conclusion: TGBM is uncommon disorder of unknown aetiology presenting as asymptomatic haematuria and/or proteinuria affecting young patient. CP correlation and Light and EM studies are essential to confirm the diagnosis.