

# Infection related Glomerulonephritis

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# Overview

- Epidemiology
- Definitions
  - Post-infectious (PIGN) vs. Infection related (IRGN)
  - Post-infectious (PIGN) vs. Post-streptococcal GN (PSGN)
- Other IRGN
- PSGN
  - Pathology, Pathogenesis, Clinical manifestations, Outcome
- Comparison with other GN
- Atypical PIGN/C3GN

# Global incidence

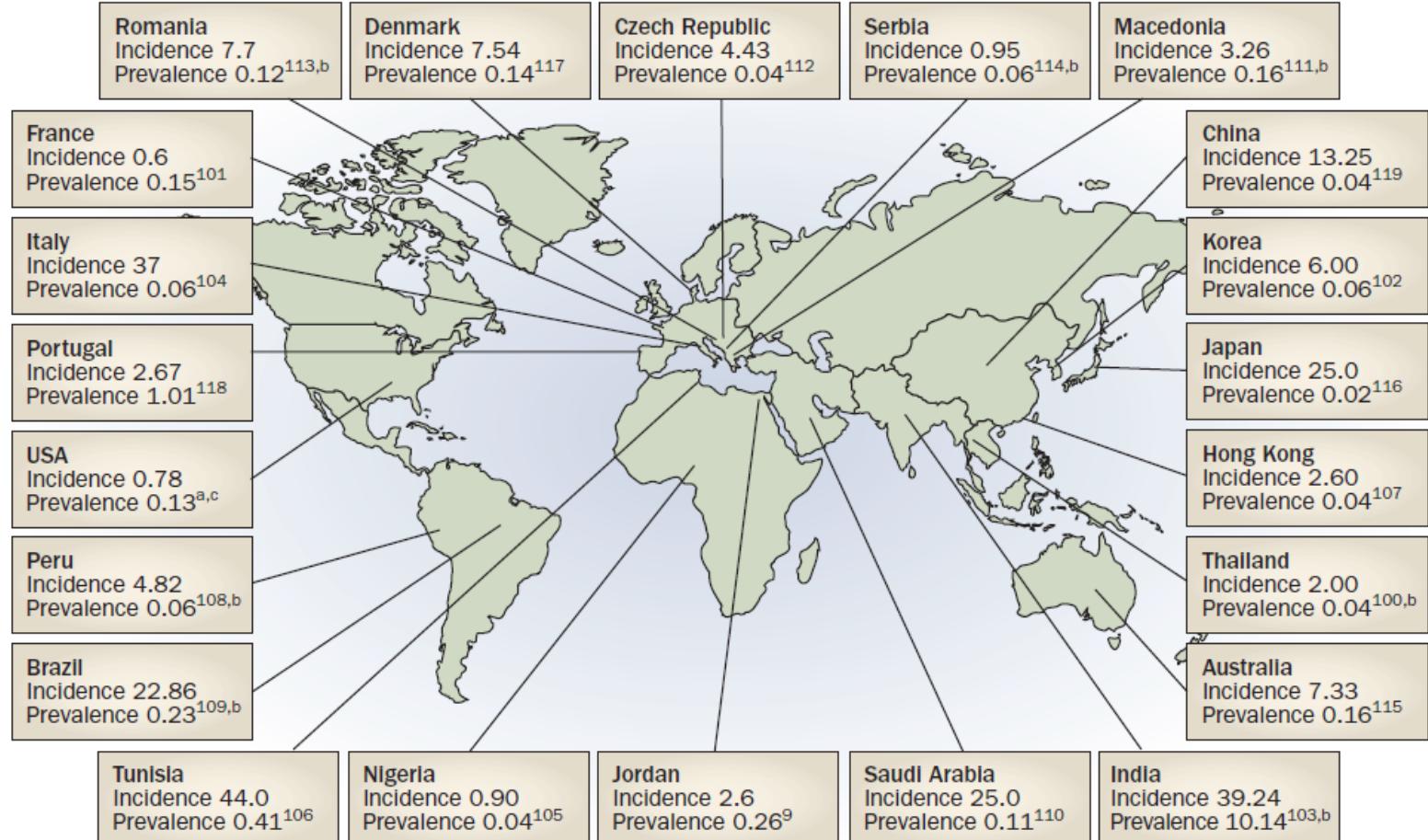
Est annual incidence ~  
9.3/100,000 (Carapetis et al)

X 4 Low resource setting in  
adults

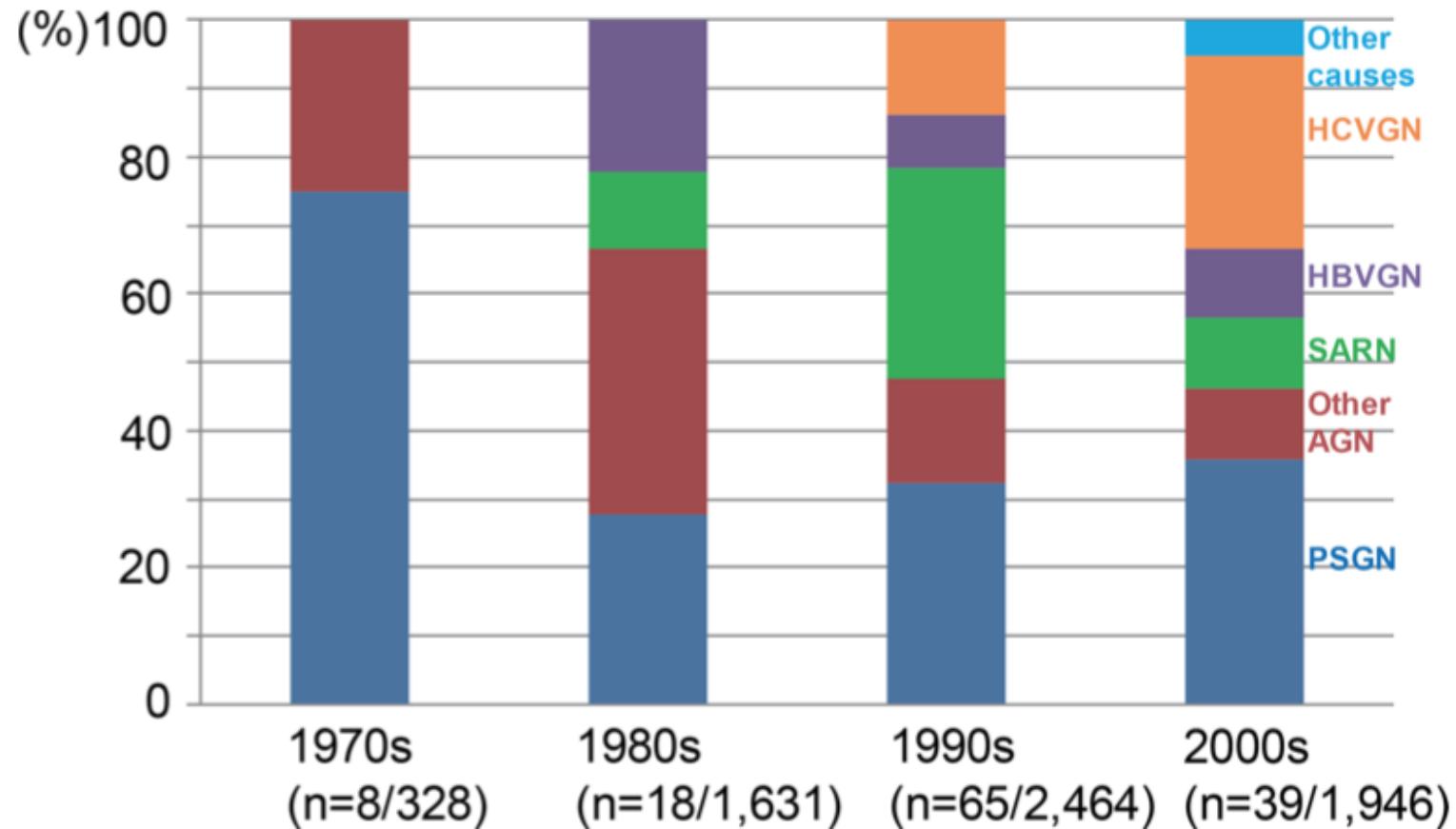
Highest: Indigenous Australians  
239/100,000

## Caveats

- Definition
- Under-reporting
- Sporadic vs. epidemic
- Paediatric vs. adult



# Changing epidemiology



# Proposed definitions

## Infection related GN (IRGN)

Non-renal infection  
GN  
Immunological

## Post infectious GN (PIGN)

Infection resolved  
Latency

### Post streptococcal GN (PSGN)

Immunosuppression in refractory disease ?

## GN of active infection

### Staph A. related nephritis (SARN)

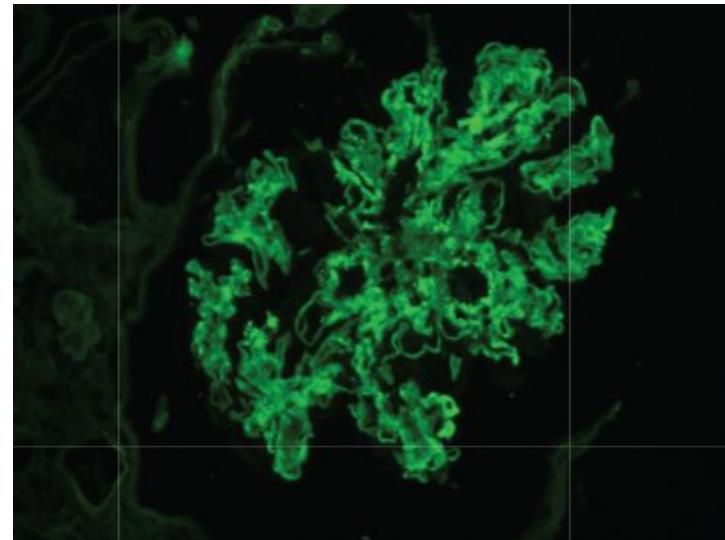
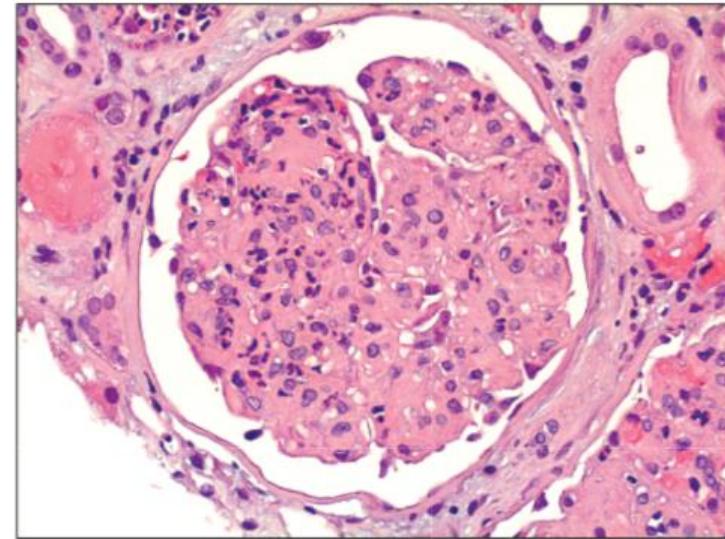
### Viral GN

### Other

Eradication of infection

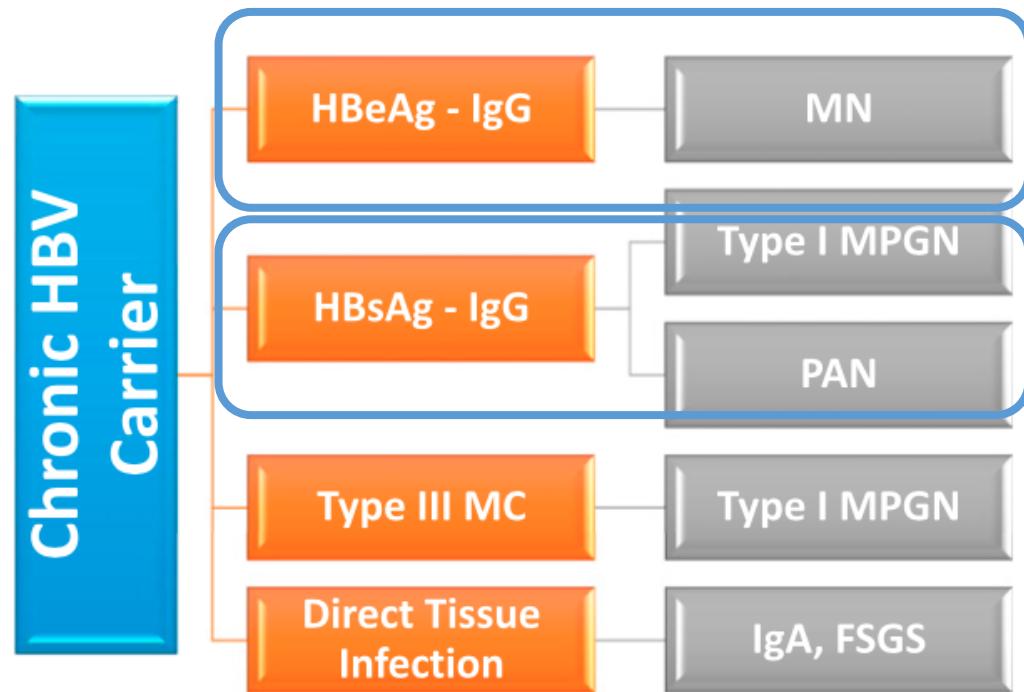
# Staph A related GN

- In elderly and diabetics
- Concurrent infection
- MRSA
- IgA dominant IC GN
- Triggered by super-antigens
  - Enterotoxin A , C
  - Toxic shock syndrome toxin-1

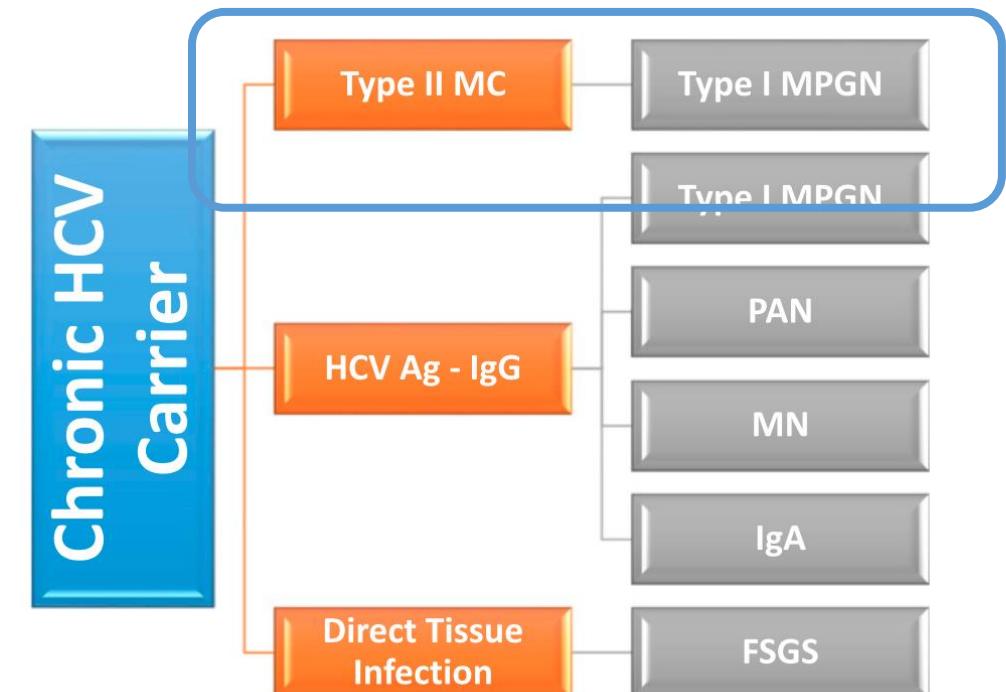


# Viral associated GN

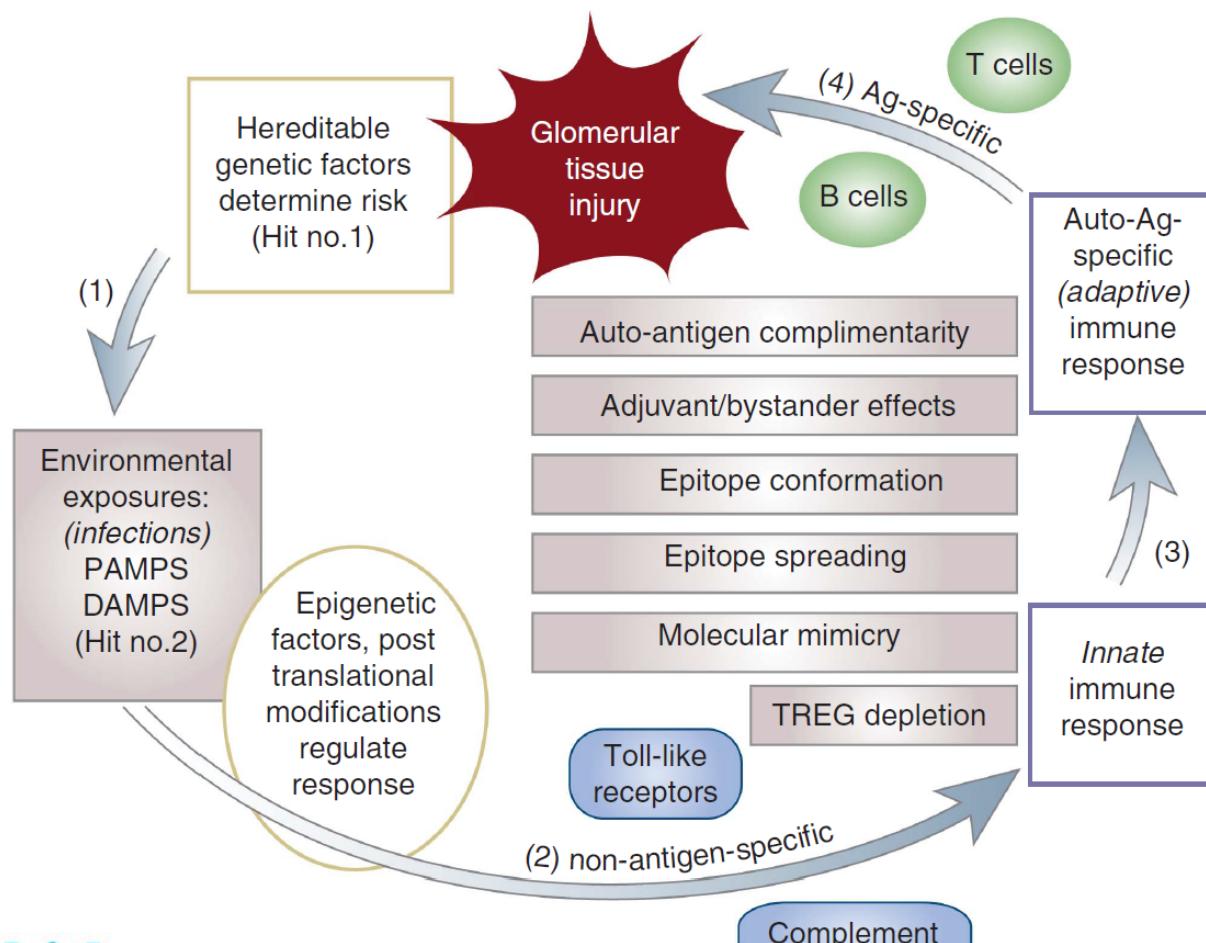
## Hep B Virus



## Hep C Virus



# Infection & Autoimmunity



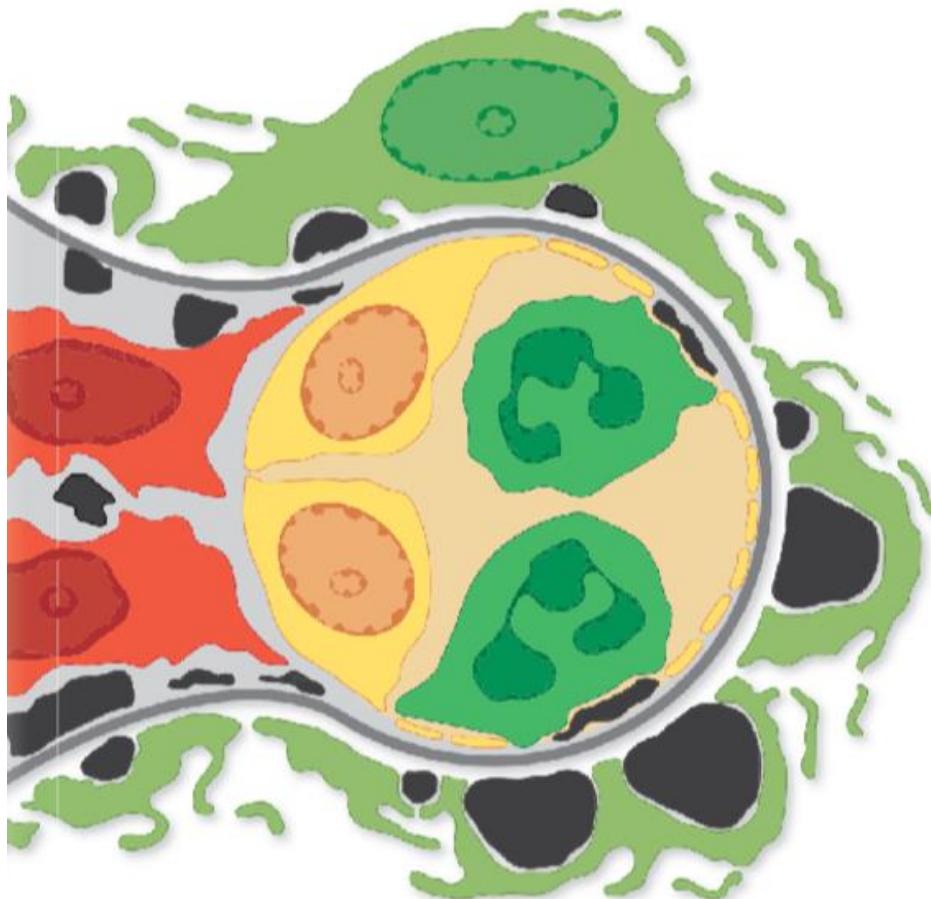
## Disease

### Post-streptococcal GN

IgA nephropathy  
Anti-GBM nephritis  
ANCA-positive GN  
Lupus nephritis  
MPGN I  
MCD/FGS  
Membranous nephropathy  
Dense deposit disease  
C3 nephropathy

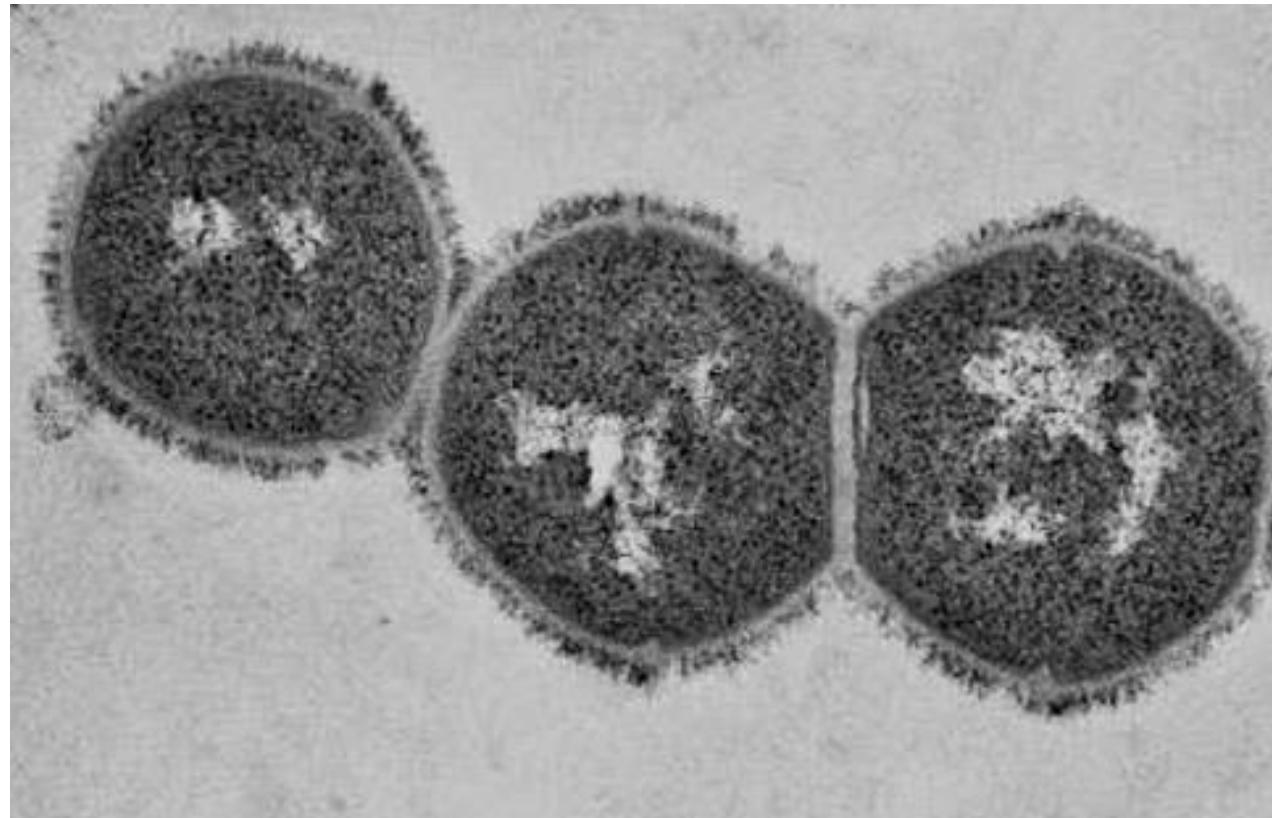
PSGN

# Pathogenesis



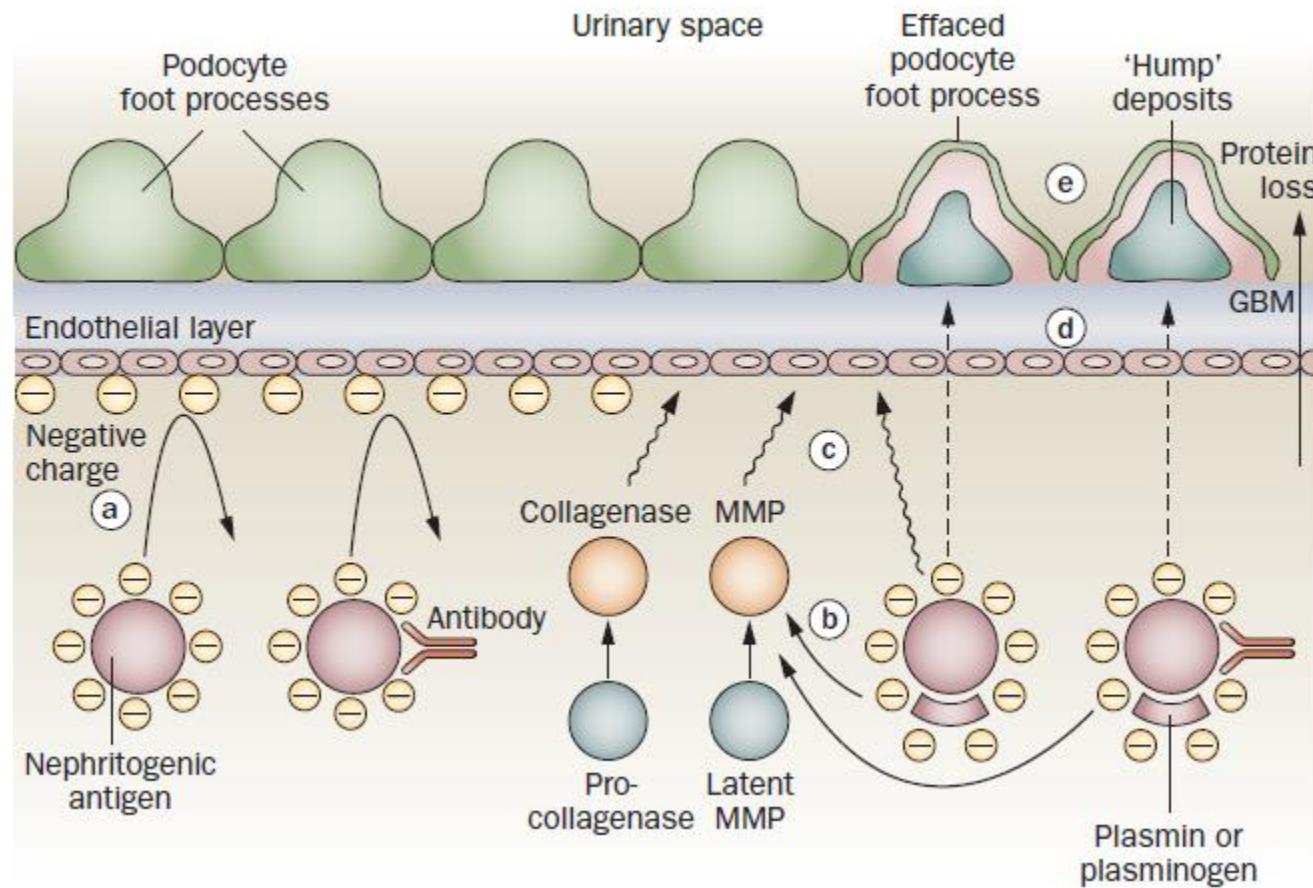
- Group A Strep. (GAS) [Strep. Pyogenes]
- No animal model, GAS human pathogen
- In-situ sub-epithelial Immune complex (IC) deposition
  - No correlation to circulating IC
  - Preformed IC – largely sub-endothelial
- Alternative complement (AP) pathway activation
- Cellular immunity

# Pathogenesis : mechanisms



- Nephritogenic strains
  - URTI (M types 1, 2, 4, 12, 18, 25)
  - Skin (M types 49, 55, 57, 60)
- Nephritogenic antigens
  - M proteins, streptokinase are unlikely
- Autoimmunity
  - Anti-IgG
  - Epiphénoménon ?
- Molecular mimicry
  - M protein in Rheumatic carditis

# Pathogenesis: Penetrating the GBM



# Pathogenesis : Nephritogenicity

SpeB/zSpeB  
28 kDa

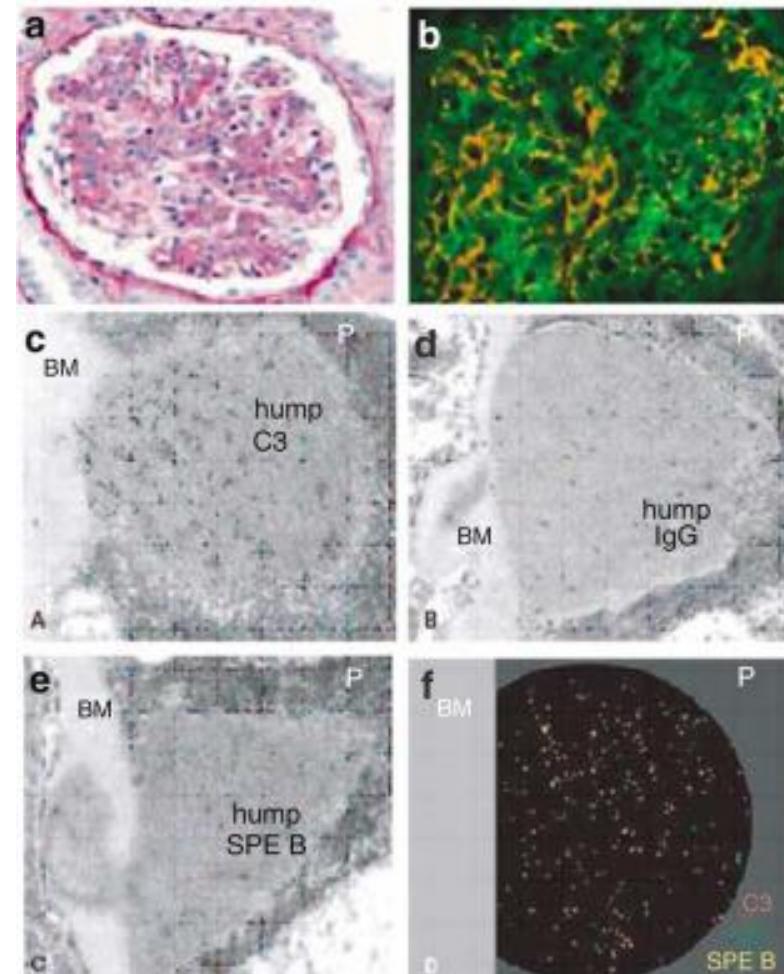
GAPDH (NAPlr)  
43 kDa

Serological : Specific Antibody response

Histological: Co-localization

Plasmin binding receptor protein  
Activates collagenase & MPP

Immune complex GN



**kidney**  
INTERNATIONAL

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY

Rodríguez-Iturbe B, Batsford S. Pathogenesis of poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis a century after Clemens von Pirquet.  
Kidney Int. 2007 Jun;71(11):1094-104.

# Clinical features

GAS  
infection

Latency (pharyngitis :2 weeks,  
skin: >2 weeks)

Acute  
Nephritic  
syndrome

Oliguria(~60%)/Oedema(~70%)  
Hypertension (~80%)/CCF  
Intra-glomerular blood flow  
↓ FeNa → Na/water retention  
↓ Renin state

Proteinuria(~70%)  
Sub-nephrotic

Haematuria (~100%)  
Microscopic 2/3

Serology  
ASOT : URTI > skin  
Anti DNaseB : skin > URTI  
Anti-hyaluronidase : skin > URTI  
Autoantibodies (RF, AntiDNA, ANCA)

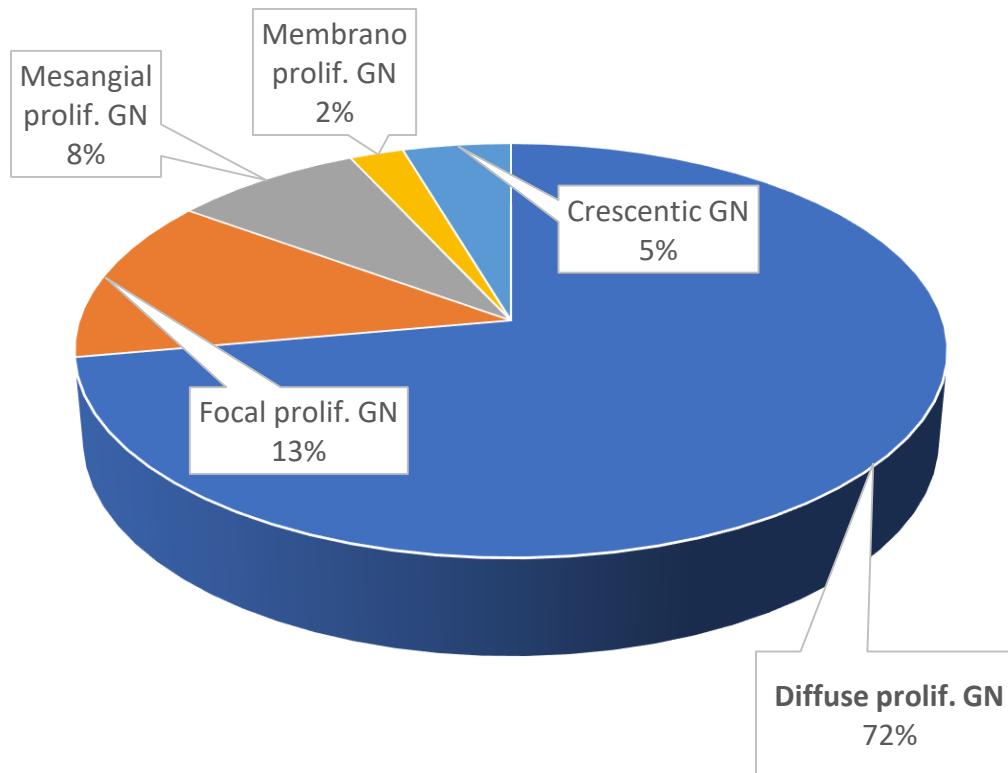
Complements  
Predominantly AP (C3)

Culture (~25%)

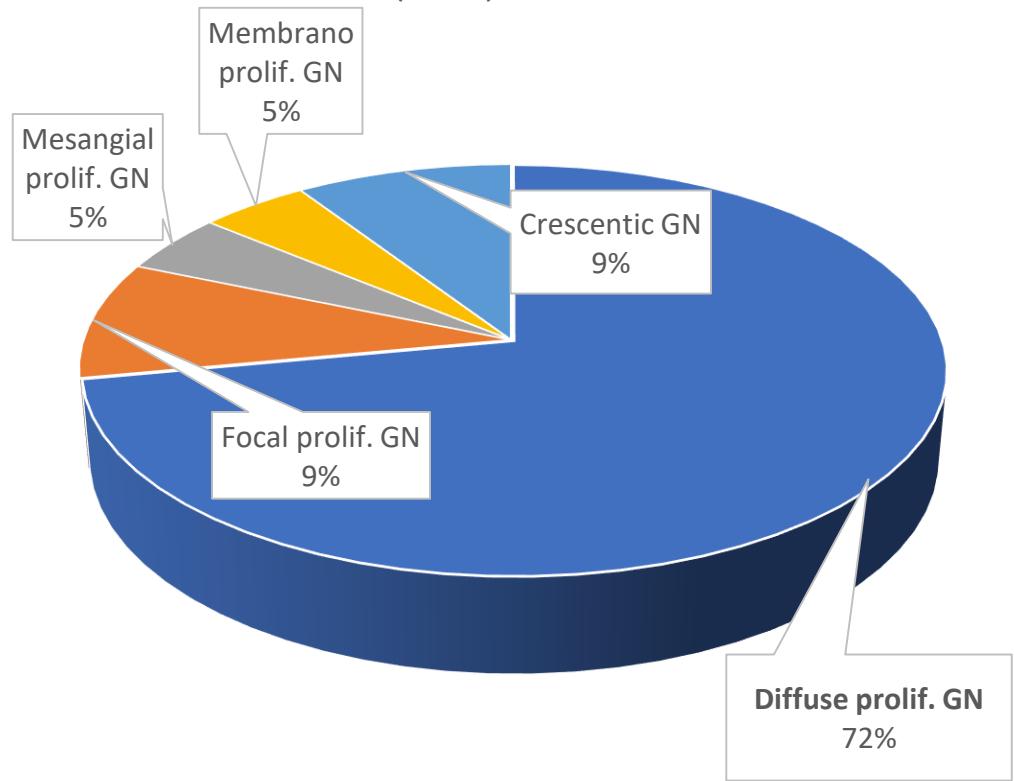
Recovery

# Histology

Nasr et al. 1995-2005  
(N=86) : NY, USA

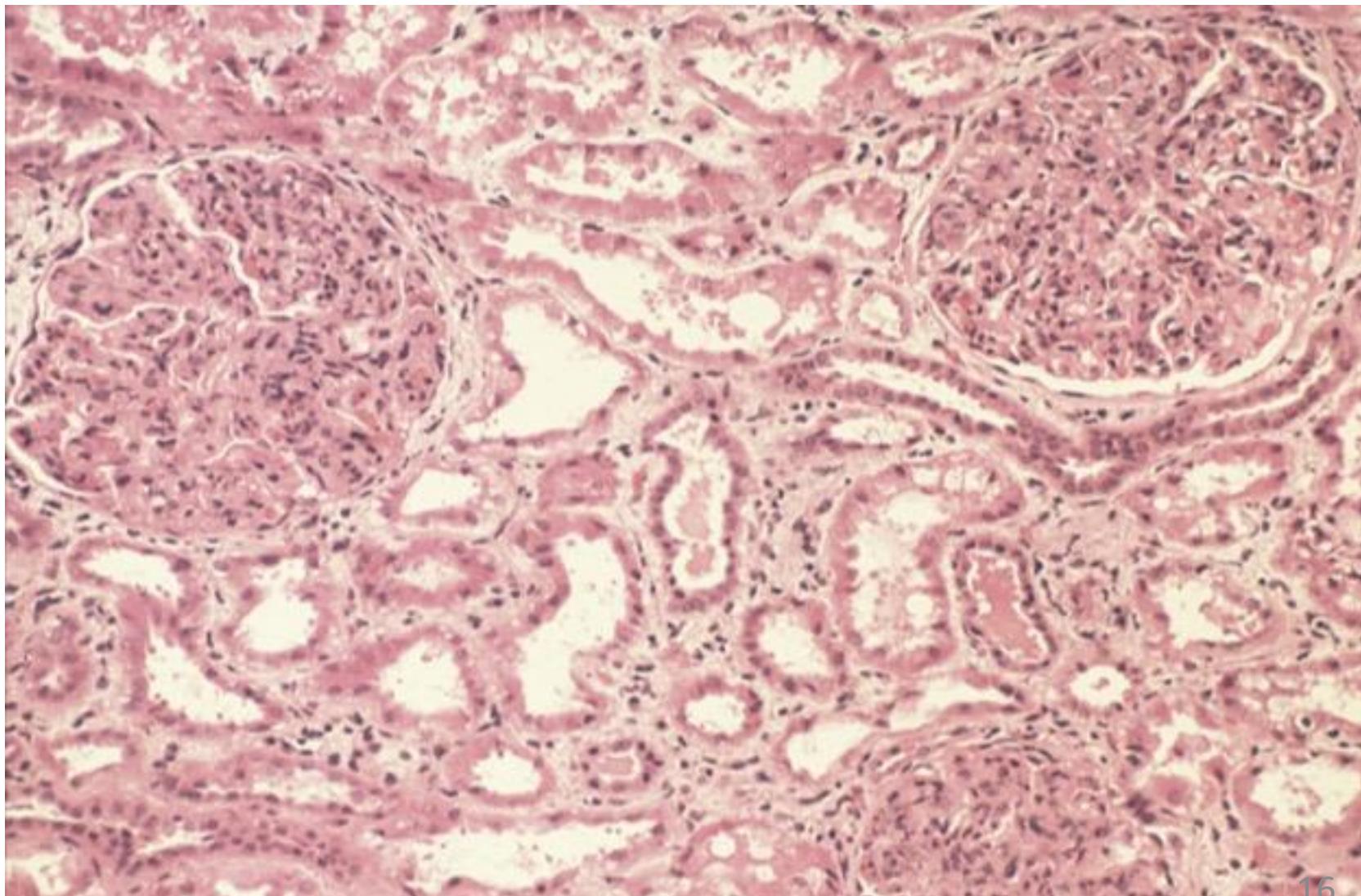


Ramanathan et al. 2004-2014  
(N=43) : NT Aus



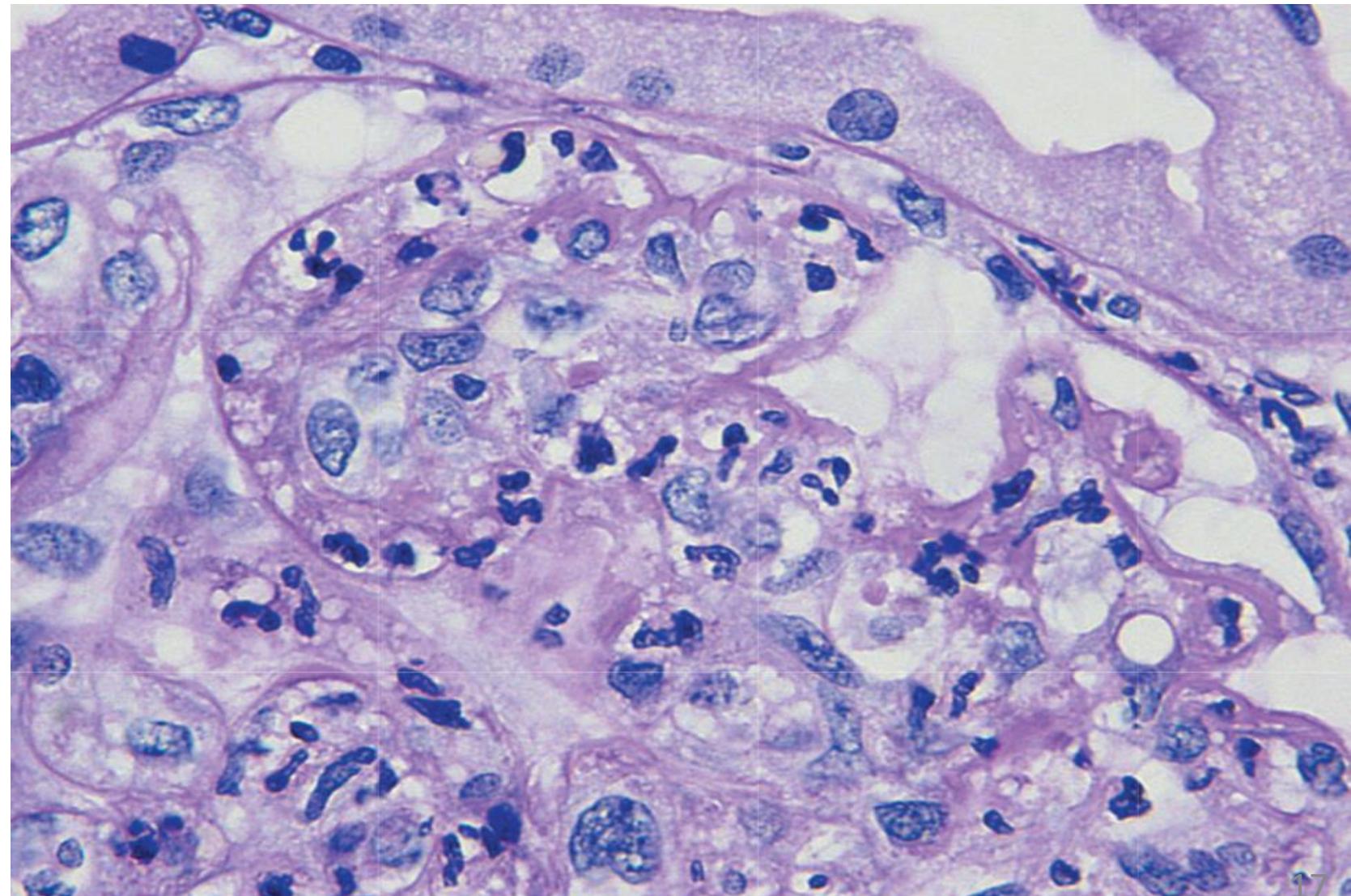
# Histology : LM : Glomeruli

- Diffuse,  
monomorphic
- Hypercellularity
- Lobular  
expansion
- Crescents are  
rare



# Histology : LM : Glomeruli

- GBM is not thickened
- Hypercellularity
  - External (predominant, early)
    - PMN
    - Monocytes
    - Lymphocytes, eosinophils unusual
  - Internal (late stage)
    - Mesangial
    - Epithelial
    - Endothelial

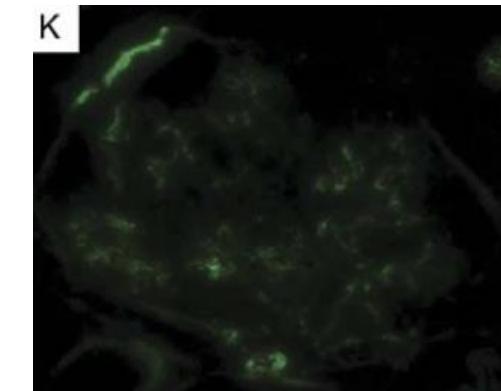
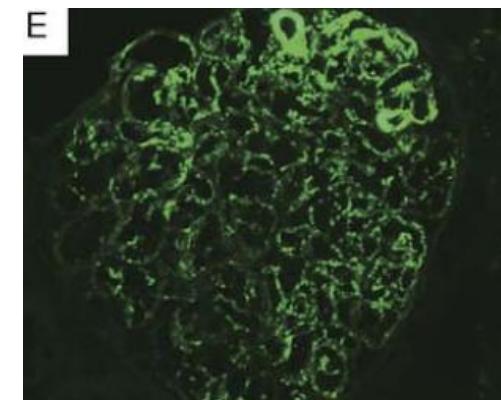
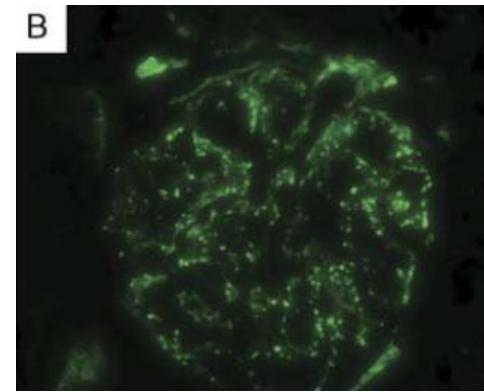


# Histology : LM : Tubules, interstitium, blood vessels

- Not directly affected
- Proteinuria -> hyaline droplets
- Casts
- ATN
- IF/TA in extensive crescentic
- Arteritis rare

# Histology : IF

- Sorger et al :
  - Starry sky : early cases
  - Garland : assoc heavy proteinuria, more dense subepithelial
  - Mesangial : resolving
- No evidence that different aetiological factors are responsible
- Likely related to host and stage of the disease

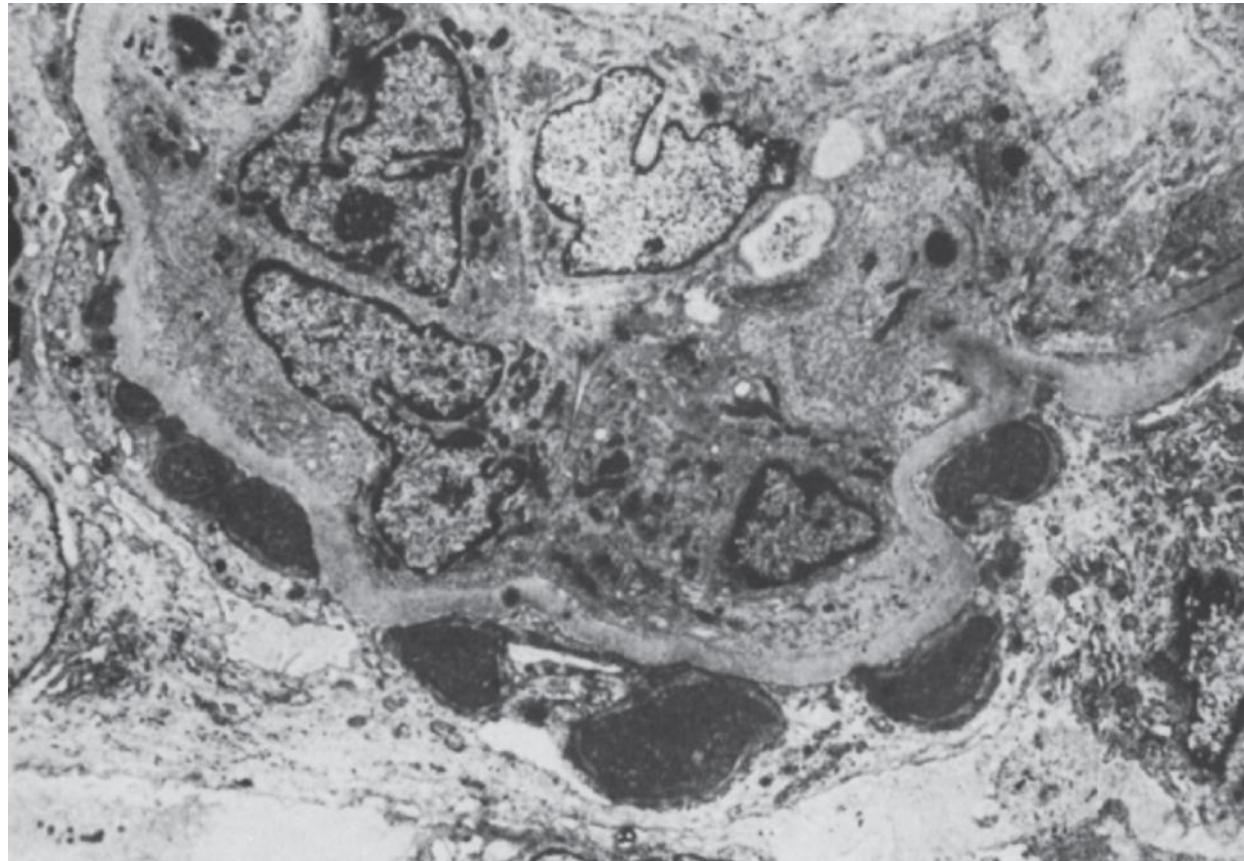


# Histology : IF

- Anti-C3
  - More intense than anti-IgG, sometimes only anti-C3
- IgM in 50%
- IgA in staph
- C1q-C4 absent ; suggestive of alternate pathway

# Histology : EM

- Sub-epithelial electron-dense deposits ("Humps")
- Sub-endothelial early in disease
- Not pathognomonic
- Mostly in the mesangial notch near GBM reflection over mesangium
- Abundant in the first few weeks and then decline, usually disappear in 6 weeks



*Reproduced from Heptinstall's pathology of the kidney 7<sup>th</sup> edition*

# Pathology : temporal profile

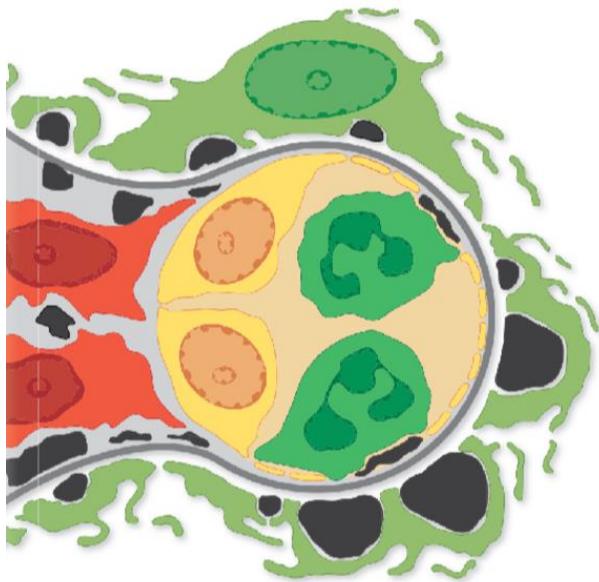
**TABLE 1.** Poststreptococcal GN: The Interval Between the Onset of Renal Symptoms and Renal Biopsy Determines the Histologic Features

	<b>Early Biopsy (&lt; 2 wk)</b>	<b>Typical Features</b>	<b>Late Biopsy (&gt; 4-6 wk)</b>
Clinical features	Mild albuminuria and hematuria	Acute nephritic syndrome	Persistent microscopic hematuria and/or proteinuria
Light microscopy	Glomerular endocapillary proliferation may be focal and segmental	Diffuse global proliferation (“exudative” early on; lymphocytes, monocytes along with mesangial and endothelial proliferation predominate later)	Mesangial proliferation
Immunofluorescence microscopy	C3 and IgG; starry sky pattern	C3 and IgG; starry sky or garland pattern*	C3 ± IgG; mesangial pattern
Electron microscopy	Mesangial, subepithelial (humps), and ± subendothelial deposits	Mesangial, subepithelial (humps), and ± subendothelial deposits	Mesangial and ± rare subepithelial humps in the mesangial “notch”

\*Garland pattern with confluent subendothelial deposits in patients with nephrotic syndrome.  
GN indicates glomerulonephritis; Ig, immunoglobulin.

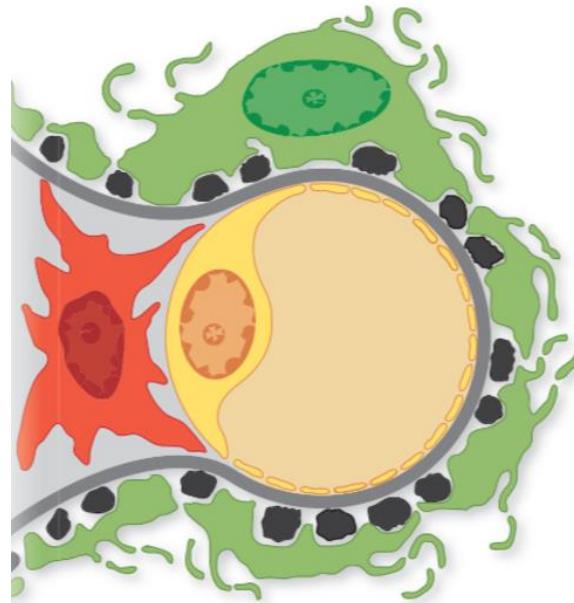
# PSGN vs. Primary MGN : sub-epithelial deposits

- PSGN



- Variable sized sub-epithelial
- Sub-endothelial and mesangial deposits

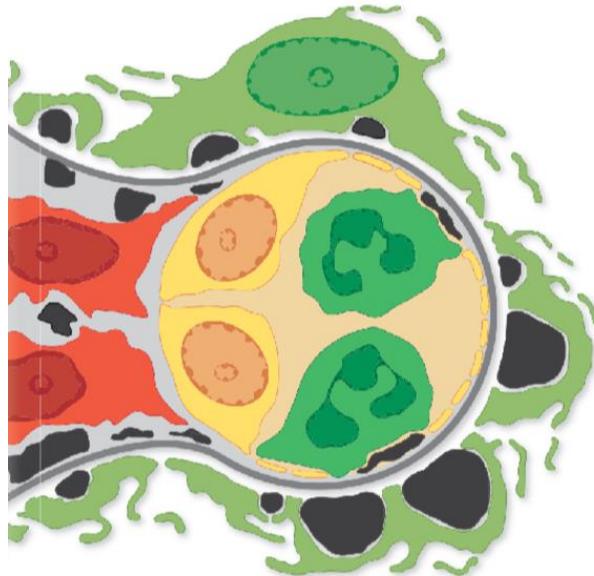
- Membranous



*Reproduced from Heptinstall's pathology of the kidney 7<sup>th</sup> edition*

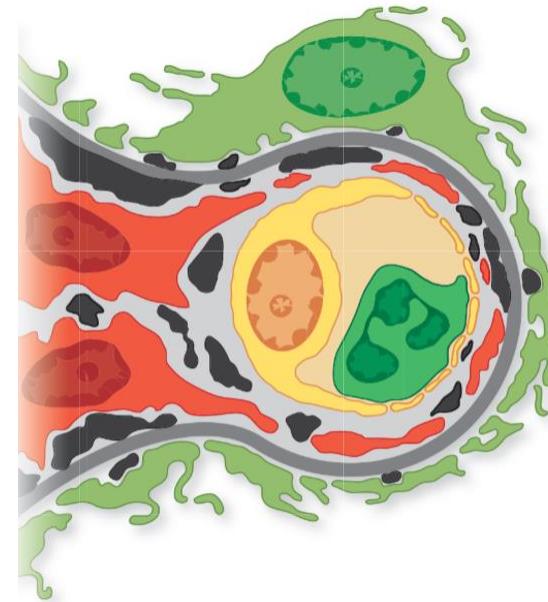
# PSGN vs. MPGN type 1 :

- PSGN



- Predominant sub-epithelial
- Sub-endothelial and mesangial deposits

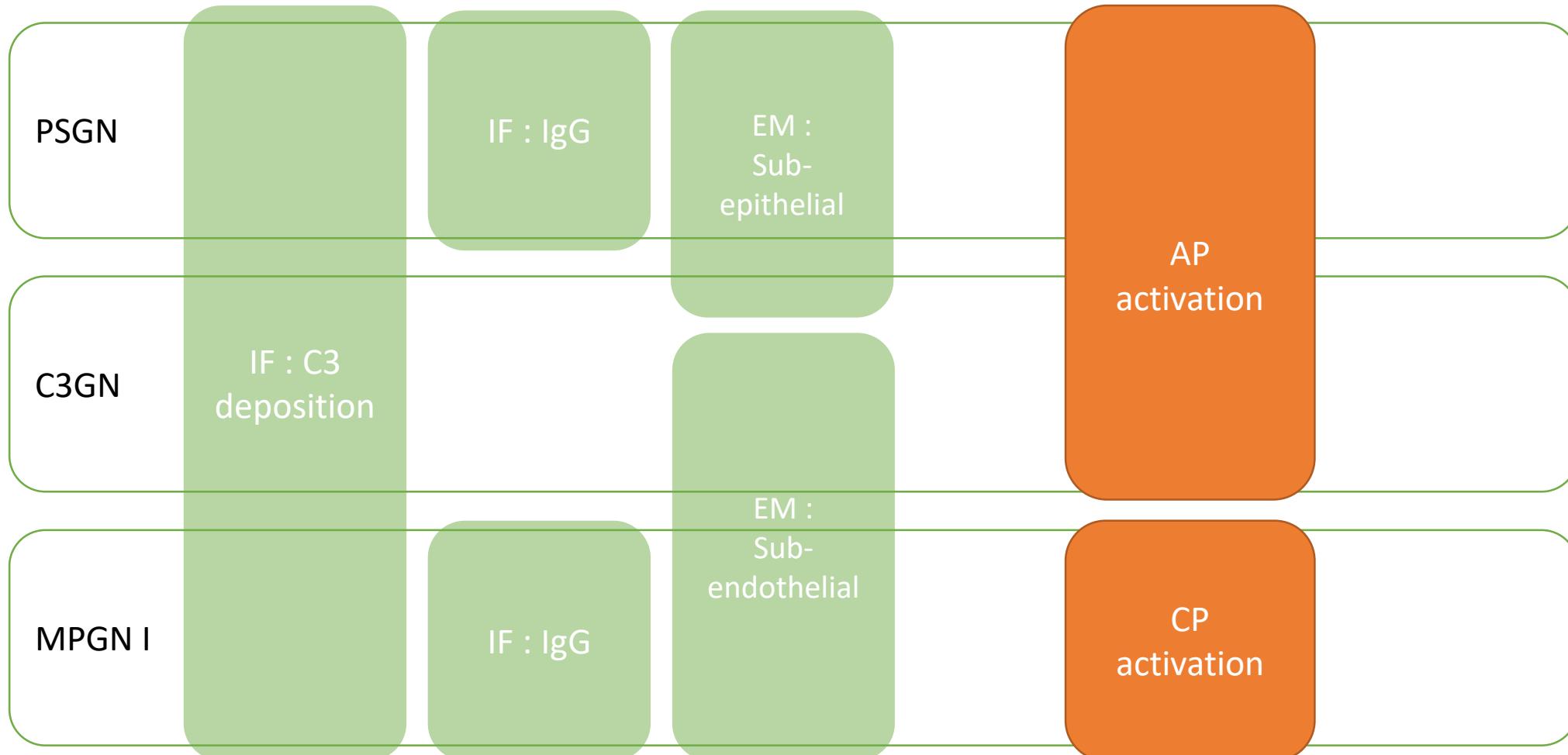
- MPGN type 1



- Predominant sub-endothelial
- Occasional 'humps'

*Reproduced from Heptinstall's pathology of the kidney 7<sup>th</sup> edition*

# Comparison of C3 dominant GN



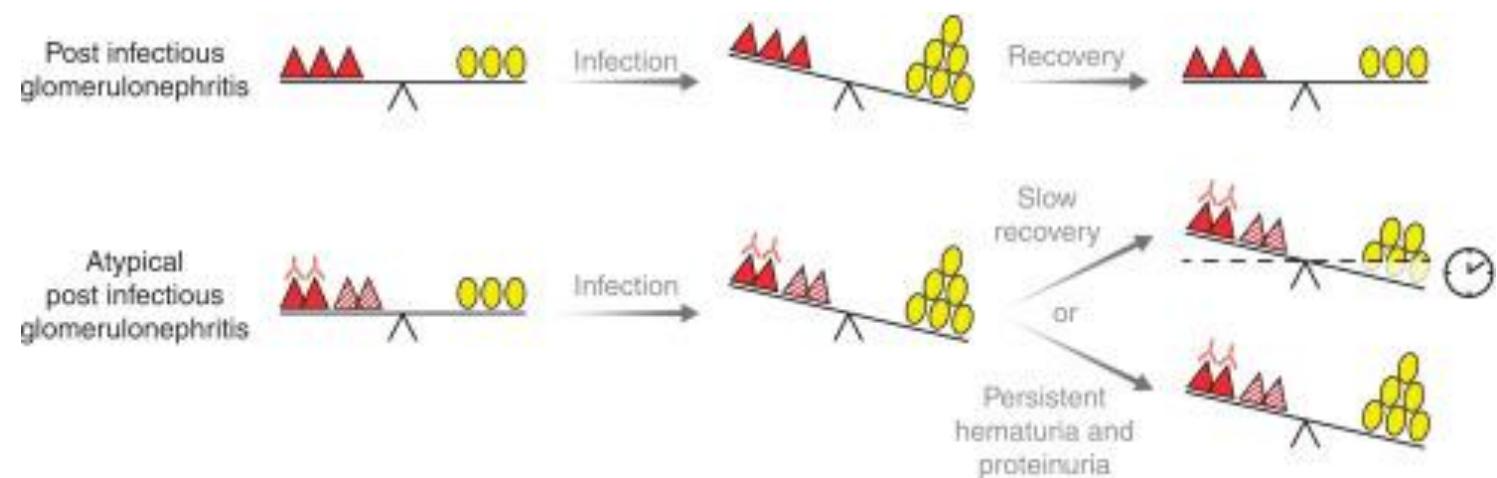
# Proposed GN classification based on Pathogenesis

Table 1. Classification of GN

Pathogenic Type	Specific Disease Entity	Pattern of Injury: Focal or Diffuse	Scores or Class
Immune-complex GN <sup>a</sup>	IgA nephropathy, IgA vasculitis, lupus nephritis, infection-related GN, fibrillary GN with polyclonal Ig deposits	Mesangial, endocapillary, exudative, membranoproliferative, necrotizing, crescentic, sclerosing, or multiple <sup>b</sup>	Oxford/MEST scores for IgA nephropathy ISN/RPS class for lupus nephritis
Pauci-immune GN	MPO-ANCA GN, proteinase 3-ANCA GN, ANCA-negative GN	Necrotizing, crescentic, sclerosing, or multiple <sup>b</sup>	Focal, crescentic, mixed, or sclerosing class (Berden/EUVAS class)
Anti-GBM GN	Anti-GBM GN	Necrotizing, crescentic, sclerosing, or mixed <sup>b</sup>	
Monoclonal Ig GN <sup>a</sup>	Monoclonal Ig deposition disease, proliferative GN with monoclonal Ig deposits, immunotactoid glomerulopathy, fibrillary GN with monoclonal Ig deposits	Mesangial, endocapillary, exudative, membranoproliferative, necrotizing, crescentic, sclerosing, or multiple <sup>b</sup>	
C3 glomerulopathy	C3 GN, dense deposit disease	Mesangial, endocapillary, exudative, membranoproliferative, necrotizing, crescentic, sclerosing, or multiple <sup>b</sup>	

# Atypical PIGN

- Rarely, persisting disease activity
- Role of C5i



# Outcome

**Table 7** Summary of characteristics and outcomes from previous studies of APIGN compared with our study

	Study	Country	Year	Case	Biopsy incidence	Mean/ median age	Diabetes	Main organism	Site of infection	ESRF risk	Mortality risk
1	Richmond <i>et al.</i> <sup>21</sup>	New Zealand	1970–1987	41	N/A	36	N/A	Non-Streptococcal	URTI	34%	36%
2	Keller <i>et al.</i> <sup>19</sup>	Germany	1984–1993	30	4.5%	49	N/A	Streptococcal	Teeth	13%	3%
3	Montseny <i>et al.</i> <sup>22</sup>	France	1976–1993	76	4.5%	48	8%	Staphylococcus	URTI	8%	11%
4	Moroni <i>et al.</i> <sup>23</sup>	Italy	1979–1999	50	N/A	54	10%	Streptococcus	URTI	10%	10%
5	Srisawat <i>et al.</i> <sup>24</sup>	Thailand	1999–2005	36	3.6%	47	12%	Non-streptococcal	N/A	14%	0%
6	Nasr <i>et al.</i> <sup>25</sup>	USA	1995–2005	86	0.6%	56	21%	Streptococcus	URTI	17%	8%
7	Wen <i>et al.</i> <sup>26</sup>	Taiwan	2000–2008	20	N/A	61	25%	Staphylococcus	Skin	25%	30%
8	Nasr <i>et al.</i> <sup>13</sup>	USA	2000–2010	109	0.9%	>65	49%	Staphylococcus	Skin	11%	13%
9	Luo <i>et al.</i> <sup>14</sup>	China	2000–2009	64	N/A	29	2%	Streptococcus	URTI	4%	0%
10	Helal <i>et al.</i> <sup>27</sup>	Tunisia	1976–2004	148	N/A	36	4%	Streptococcus	URTI	3%	1%
11	Hamouda <i>et al.</i> <sup>28</sup>	Tunisia	1991–2007	50	N/A	37	10%	Streptococcus	URTI	0%	0%
12	Natarajan <i>et al.</i> <sup>18</sup>	India	2009–2011	102	N/A	33	3%	Streptococcus	URTI	≈1%	0%
13	Our study	Australia	2004–2014	43	11.4%	44	61%	Streptococcus	Skin	50%	14%

Modified from Luo *et al.*<sup>14</sup> with permission. We would like to thank the authors and Dustri-Verlag for permission to use their table. N/A, not applicable; URTI, upper respiratory tract infection

# Treatment

- PSGN
  - Supportive care
  - Steroids in crescentic GN ? Weak evidence
  - Emerging role of C5i in Atypical forms
- IRGN
  - Supportive care
  - Prevention of infection ; vaccination
  - Eradication of infection

# Conclusion

- Classical PSGN is becoming rarer. Non-PSGN/IRGN increasingly recognized.
- Immune complex based pathology
- PSGN associated with Nephritogenic antigens (SpeB / NAPLR)
- Complement defects lead to Atypical/C3GN
- Outcome is dependent on co-morbidities.