Gromerular diseases in Kenya-another look at diseases characterised by nephrotic proteinura.

Abstract

Renal biopsies were evaluated in 422 patients with nephrotic syndrome at the Kenyatta National Hospital between 1982 and 1993. Three hundred and fifty five (84.1%) of the patients were less than 30 years old (range: 7 months to 66 years; mean=SD: 28.4 - 9.2 years). The commonest histological lesions were mesangial proliferative glomerulonephritis (25.1%), minimal change nephropathy (17.5%) and focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (15.2%). Poststreptococcal aetiology was implicated in diffuse proliferative glomerulonephritis while use of skin lightening cosmetics appeared to play a role in the aetiology of minimal change nephrophathy in females. No aetiological role was apparent for hepatitis B virus, human immunodeficiency virus, malarial or schistosomal infection. All patients with minimal change nephropathy, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis and mesangial proliferative glomerulonephritis were treated with steroids and/or cytotoxics with a variable response.