Cryofibrinogen-Associated Glomerulonephritis

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Abstract

Cryofibrinogen is a precipitate consisting of fibrinogen, fibrin, and fibrin degradation products derived from plasma exposed to cold temperature. It is a rare disorder that has a heterogeneous clinical presentation ranging from asymptomatic to manifestations secondary to thromboembolic disease including skin ulcerations and gangrene in severe cases. Up to 13% of patients with cryofibrinogenemia have kidney involvement with only a paucity of reports describing the kidney pathology related to cryofibrinogen. The case presented is of a 60-year-old patient who had clinicopathologic findings thought initially to be attributable to diabetes mellitus and hypertension but found to have glomerular deposits with ultrastructural features consistent with cryofibrinogen. This case underscores the importance of electron microscopy, which if not performed the diagnosis would have been missed and suggests that cryofibrinogen-associated glomerulonephritis is likely underestimated.

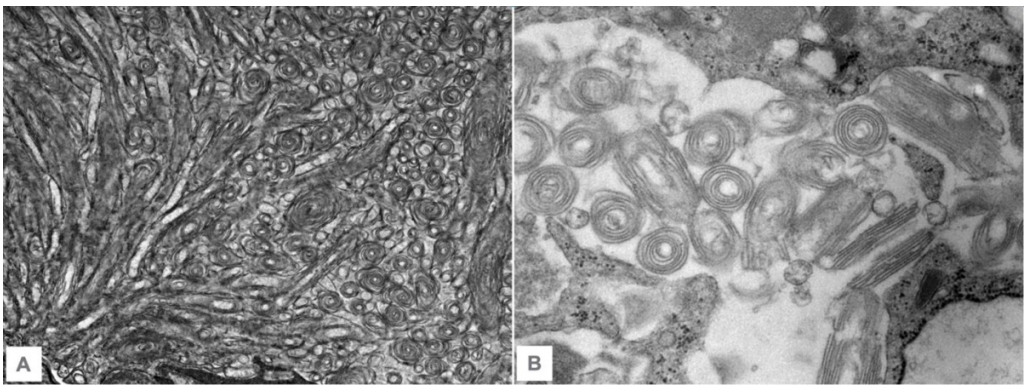

Figure A (6000x) & B (20000x) shows randomly arranged large tubular structures with multilayered central bores.

References

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