

Glomerulonephritis

Glomerulonephritis (GN) is an inflammatory disease of the glomeruli (filtering unit) of the kidney. It is characterized by pathologic changes in the glomeruli and smaller blood vessels of the kidney. Glomerular damage causes leaking of protein, blood, and white cells into the urine. Causes of GN include diabetes mellitus, cancer, drugs, infections, hypertension, or abnormal antibody response (immunologic). Primary or secondary GN is subdivided into 5 major syndromes based on the clinical course:

1. Acute glomerulonephritis (acute GN) has an acute onset and early resolution. An example is post streptococcal GN. Most recover completely.
2. Rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis (RPGN) has an acute onset and rapid progression. Examples include lupus erythematosus and Goodpasture's disease (GN and lung disease). Prognosis is poor.
3. Nephrotic syndrome is GN with heavy proteinuria defined as over 3.5 grams of protein a day. Examples include membranous GN and minimal change disease. Of this group, minimal change disease has a better prognosis.
4. Primary hematuria/proteinuria syndrome is persistent, asymptomatic minimal hematuria (RBC's in urine) and proteinuria (protein in urine), for example IgA nephropathy.
5. Chronic glomerulonephritis (chronic GN) is slowly progressive GN due to any cause of GN such as membranoproliferative GN. Chronic GN leads to chronic renal failure. As noted above, most with acute GN recover completely. Chronic progressive GN may have a slow course to kidney failure. Kidney failure results in death. Treatment with dialysis can postpone mortality by several years. Kidney transplantation has a better prognosis if there is no rejection of the transplanted kidney.

If your client has a history of Glomerulonephritis, please answer the following:

1. Please note type of Glomerulonephritis: _____

2. Please list date of first diagnosis:

3. Was a kidney biopsy done?

If yes, please give date and diagnosis _____

4. Is your client on any medications?

If yes, please give most recent test results _____

5. Please provide the client's most recent readings for:

Blood Pressure _____

BUN _____

Creatinine _____

Urinalysis _____

6. Has your client smoked cigarettes in the last 12 months?

If yes, please give details _____

7. Does your client have any other major health problems (ex: diabetes, lupus, etc.)?

If yes, please give details _____