

## **MYCOPHENOLATE MOFETIL ABROGATES NEPHROTIC RANGE PROTEINURIA IN IDIOPATHIC MEMBRANOUS NEPHROPATHY**

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The mainstay treatment for Idiopathic Membranous Nephropathy (IMN) involves the use of cytotoxic agents such as Chlorambucil or Cyclophosphamide(Cy) which have been shown to induce long term remission in these patients. However, these agents have been associated with a high rate of complications including life threatening infections, malignancies, myelosuppression and sterility. There is conflicting evidence in support for use of less toxic immunosuppressive agents such as Mycophenolate (MMF) for the treatment of IMN. We present 6 patients with biopsy proven IMN who were treated with MMF. Three patients, who had a relapse of IMN, were initially treated with Cy and steroids which had induced a complete remission for an average of two years. MMF therapy was instituted at the time of relapse and continued for 2 years which led to a complete remission in two patients and a partial remission in one patient. In the other 3 patients with de novo IMN, MMF was used as both the induction and maintenance agent. In these patients, MMF has been continued for approximately one year and all of them have achieved a partial response (> 50 % reduction in proteinuria). In this series, no patients had any serious adverse effect attributed to MMF. In conclusion, our results suggest that long term MMF therapy for the treatment of IMN consistently led to either a complete or partial response and may be associated with fewer side effects in comparison to cytotoxic agents.