Epidemiological features of primary glomerular disease in Turkey: a multicenter study by the Turkish Society of Nephrology Glomerular Diseases Working Group

Aydin Turkmen1, Abdullah Sumnu2*, Egemen Cebeci3, Halil Yazici1, Necmi Eren4, Nurhan Seyahi5, Kamil Dilek6, Fatih Dede7, Ulver Derici8, Abdulkadir Unsal9, Garip Sahin10, Murat Sipahioglu11, Mahmut Gok12, Erhan Tatar13, Belda Dursun14, Savas Sipahi15, Murvet Yilmaz16, Gultekin Suleymanlar17, Sena Ulu18, Ozkan Gungor19, Sim Kutlay20, Zerrin Bicik Bahcebasi21, Idris Sahin22, Ilhan Kurultak23, Kultigin Turkmen24, Zulfikar Yilmaz25, Rumeyza Turan Kazancioglu26, Caner Cavdar27, Ferhan Candan28, Zeki Aydin29, Duriye Deren Oygar30, Cuma Bulent Gul31, Mustafa Arici32, Saima Paydas33, Dilek Guven Taymez34, Mehmet Kucuk35, Sinan Trablus36, Kenan Turgutalp37, Leyla Koc38, Siren Sezer39, Murat Duranay40, Simge Bardak41, Lutfullah Altintepe42, Izzet Hakki Arikan43, Alper Azak44, Ali Riza Odabas45, Gulizar Manga Sahin12 and Savas Ozturk5

Abstract

Background: The largest data on the epidemiology of primary glomerular diseases (PGDs) are obtained from the databases of countries or centers. Here, we present the extended results of the Primary Glomerular Diseases Study of the Turkish Society of Nephrology Glomerular Diseases (TSN-GOLD) Working Group.

Methods: Data of patients who underwent renal biopsy and received the diagnosis of PGD were recorded in the database prepared for the study. A total of 4399 patients from 47 centers were evaluated between May 2009 and May 2019. The data obtained at the time of kidney biopsy were analyzed. After the exclusion of patients without light microscopy and immunofluorescence microscopy findings, a total of 3875 patients were included in the study.

Results: The mean age was 41.5 ± 14.9 years. 1690 patients were female (43.6%) and 2185 (56.3%) were male. Nephrotic syndrome was the most common biopsy indication (51.7%). This was followed by asymptomatic urinary abnormalities (18.3%) and nephritic syndrome (17.8%). The most common PGD was IgA nephropathy (25.7%) followed by membranous nephropathy (25.6%) and focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (21.9%). The mean total number of glomeruli per biopsy was 17 ± 10. The mean baseline systolic blood pressure was 130 ± 20 mmHg and diastolic blood pressure was 81 ± 12 mmHg. The median proteinuria, serum creatinine, estimated GFR, and mean albumin values were 3300 (IQR: 1467–6307) mg/day, 1.0 (IQR: 0.7–1.6) mg/dL, 82.9 (IQR: 47.0–113.0) mL/min and (Continued on next page)
Background

Primary glomerular diseases (PGDs) are among the leading causes of chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end-stage renal disease (ESRD) both in Turkey and in the world. According to the registry data of Turkey, Europe, and the United States, PGDs are the third most common cause of ESRD after diabetes mellitus and hypertension among patients starting dialysis. According to the Turkish Society of Nephrology (TSN) 2017 annual registry report, the incidence of PGDs in patients starting hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis was 6.01 and 12.27%, respectively [1]. In the European Dialysis and Transplant Association (ERA-EDTA) 2017 annual report, the incidence of PGDs in patients receiving renal replacement therapy was 6.3–20.0% [2]. Similarly, in the United States Renal Data System (USRDS) 2016 annual report, the prevalence of PGDs among patients starting renal replacement therapy was 8.6%, and this rate did not change significantly in recent years [3].

On the other hand, since PGDs are potentially preventable or treatable diseases, several research studies are being done to understand and ultimately treat these diseases. Additionally, PGDs are heterogeneous diseases that may show different clinical pictures at different ages, the course of the diseases usually lasts for many years and, their relative rarity makes it difficult to conduct studies on the epidemiology of these diseases at a single center. Although the epidemiological studies examining the prevalence, geographic distribution, and disease trends of PDGs are an important part of these researches, such studies are still scarce. Therefore, national glomerulonephritis (GN) registry systems, including epidemiological data, have been established.

Epidemiological data on PGDs vary between countries due to geographical, genetic and environmental differences as well as changes in medical approach, indications for biopsy, the prevalence of GNs, etc. For example, it has been reported that the incidence of membranous nephropathy (MN) has increased in China in recent years due to increased air pollution [4]. Therefore, data-based studies from different regions of the world can contribute to the assessment and management of PGDs.

We published the result of a study, including 1274 biopsy-proven PGD patients, performed by the TSN Glomerular Diseases (TSN-GOLD) Working Group in 2014 [5]. The most frequent PGD was MN (28.8%) followed by focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS) (19.3%) and IgA nephropathy (IgAN) (17.2%). This study investigated the changes in the presentation and frequency of PGDs and indications for biopsy in our country in the last 10 years.

Methods

This multicenter cross-sectional study was conducted using data from a web-based database formed by the TSN-GOLD Working Group. At the time of the study, there were 60 authorized nephrology clinics in our country. Among these, 47 centers were included in the TSN-GOLD Group. Only data on patients with PGDs older than 16 years of age are entered into this database. Secondary glomerular diseases are not recorded in this system. IgAN, MN, FSGS, minimal change disease (MCD), membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis (MPGN), and crescentic glomerulonephritis (CGN) were accepted as the main PGD. The remaining less common PGDs were classified as “others”.

The database was prepared mostly using multiple-choice questions for standardized data. The demographic and clinical characteristics of the patients, in addition to the biochemical and histopathological findings, were asked. Ethical approval was obtained from The Ethics Committee of Istanbul University, Istanbul Medical Faculty.

In this study, only data collected during renal biopsy were included. Data from the follow-up period after biopsy were not included in the study. Non-diagnostic biopsy samples were excluded. Biopsy specimens were examined in the pathology laboratory of each center. Demographic parameters, history of chronic diseases such as diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease, indication for renal biopsy, pathological diagnosis, the department at which the biopsy was carried out, and comprehensive description of pathological findings were recorded in the database. The biopsy indications were classified as asymptomatic urinary abnormalities (AUA), nephrotic syndrome, nephritic syndrome, including rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis (RPGN), mixed nephrotic syndrome, and others. Persistent non-nephrotic proteinuria and/or isolated
microscopic hematuria were defined as AUA. Nephrotic syndrome was defined by the presence of proteinuria (protein excretion > 3.5 g/24 h) along with hypoalbuminemia, edema, and hyperlipidemia. Nephritic syndrome was defined by hematuria, proteinuria (< 3.5 g/day), hypertension and decreased glomerular filtration rate (GFR). Mixed nephrotic syndrome was defined by nephrotic syndrome comprising findings of nephritic syndrome. RPGN was defined by a rapid decrease in GFR within days or weeks associated with any GN. Estimated GFR (eGFR) was calculated using the Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration (CKD-EPI) equation [6].

The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences version 17.0 for Windows (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) was used for statistical analyses. Normally-distributed variables were presented as percent or mean ± standard deviation and non-normally distributed variables as median and interquartile range.

Results
A total of 4399 patients from 47 centers recorded between May 2009 and May 2019 were evaluated. Data from a total of 3875 patients were analyzed after the exclusion of patients without light microscopy and immunofluorescence microscopy (IF) findings. 1690 patients were female (43.6%) and 2185 (56.4%) were male. Nephrotic syndrome was the most common indication for renal biopsy (52.7%) followed by AUA (18.7%) and nephritic syndrome (18.2%). Figure 1 shows the distribution of renal biopsy indications according to the PGDs. The most common PGD was IgAN (25.7%) followed by MN (25.6%) and FSGS (21.9%). Figure 2 shows the distribution of PGDs in our current data and in the previous data published in 2014. While the incidence of IgAN and FSGS increased, MN, MPGN and mesangiproliferative GN were found to be decreased. There was no significant change in the frequency of MCD. When the patients were divided into two age groups (Fig. 3), the leading etiology was MN in patients aged > 40 years and IgAN in those aged < 40 years. There was no difference in FSGS between these age groups. However, MCD and MPGN were almost twice frequent in patients under 40 years of age compared to those over 40. On the other hand, CGN was almost twice frequent in patients over 40 years of age than in those under 40.

Patients’ data obtained during kidney biopsy are presented in Table 1. The data of patients, according to the PGD type, are presented in Table 2. The mean baseline systolic and diastolic blood pressure were 130 ± 20 mmHg and 81 ± 12 mmHg, respectively. About half of the patients (1722 of 3456 patients, 49.8%) had edema at presentation. The median proteinuria was 3300 (IQR: 1467–6307) mg/day, mean serum creatinine, eGFR and
albumin values were 1.4 ± 1.5 mg/dL, 80.7 ± 39.1 mL/min/m² and 3.2 ± 0.9 g/dL, respectively. Medical history revealed type 1 diabetes mellitus in 0.26% (10 of 3730 patients), type 2 diabetes mellitus 8.7% (327 of 3730 patients), and hypertension in 32.4% (1213 of 3735 patients) of the patients. About 33.7% of the patients (1308 of 3875 patients) were using a renin-angiotensin-aldosterone-system blocker before the renal biopsy.

Nephrotic syndrome was the most frequent indication for renal biopsy (2002 patients, 51.7%) followed by AUA (709 patients, 18.3%) and nephritic syndrome, including RPGN (691 patients, 17.8%). Biopsy indications for
different pathological diagnoses are presented in Table 1. In more than 80% of patients with MN and MCD, the renal biopsy was performed due to nephrotic syndrome. In addition, nephrotic syndrome was the indication for renal biopsy in more than 60% of those with FSGS and type 1 MPGN. In more than half of the patients with IgAN, AUA and nephritic syndrome, including RPGN, was the indication for renal biopsy.

Renal biopsies were performed in departments of nephrology and radiology in 75.4 and 24.5% of patients, respectively. The mean total number of glomeruli per biopsy was 17 ± 10, and the number of globally sclerotic glomeruli per biopsy was 3 ± 4. The biopsies performed between 1994 and 2019 were included in the study. However, about half of the data were recorded from patients over the period 2013–2019. The pathological diagnoses in patients who had renal biopsy due to nephrotic syndrome were MN, FSGS and MCD, respectively. The most frequent diagnosis was IgAN in patients with AUA.

Examination of urinary sediment revealed microscopic hematuria (> 5 erythrocytes per high power field) in 50.1% (1699 of 3391) and pyuria (> 5 leukocytes per high power field) in 19.2% (645 of 3230) of patients.

Comparison of the data with 2014 data
We compared our patient data in our article published in 2014 [5] with the new patient data added to our dataset from 2014 to 2019. The changes in the rates of PGDs are given in Fig. 4. The changes in the rates of all PGDs, except CGN, were statistically significant. Although nephrotic syndrome continued to be the most common renal biopsy indication, its frequency decreased significantly (57.8% in 2014, 48.7% in 2019). Moreover, the median age of the patients increased significantly [median (interquartile range-IQR): 39 (29–51) years in 2014 vs. 42.5 (32–54) years in 2019, p < 0.05]. Figure 5 shows the age distribution curve of most frequently diagnosed PGDs (IgAN, MN, and FSGS) according to biopsy indications. The mean age of all these PGDs increased in 2019 compared to the 2014 database (ages according to the databases 2014 and 2019: IgAN: 35.2 ± 12.2 vs. 39.5 ± 13.1; MN: 43.4 ± 14.5 vs. 48.6 ± 14.1; FSGS: 36.0 ± 13.3 ± 14.2, respectively). When the percentage of the biopsy indication for each PGD between the time periods was analysed (Table 4), biopsy indication in IgAN due to AUA significantly increased from 25.5% in 2014 to 39.8% in 2019, but NS indication in MN was not considerably changed (88.2% in 2014 and 81.3% in 2019). The average number of total glomeruli and the number of globally sclerotic glomeruli per biopsy were statistically significantly higher in 2019 data when compared to 2014 data [median (IQR): 16 [7–20] vs. 13 [7–17, 21, 22] and 1 (0–4) vs. 1 (0–3), respectively].

Discussion
In this study, we presented comprehensive, up-to-date data of the multicentre glomerular diseases study performed by the TSN-GOLD Working Group. There were 1274 patients in the first data published in 2014 [5]. The number of cases has increased by approximately threefold (3875 patients) and has reached one of the highest published PGD data. The most significant change between these data is that the frequency of IgAN increased from 17.2 to 25.7%, and become the most common PGD diagnosed via renal biopsy in Turkey. Another important point is that the frequency of biopsy indication due to AUA and nephritic syndrome significantly increased (from 10.8 to 17.8% and from 16.6 to 18.2%, respectively). IgAN was found to be the most common PGD in our patients who underwent kidney biopsy due to AUA (Fig. 1). When these data are combined, it can be interpreted that the increase in the frequency of IgAN in our patients is mainly related to the change in biopsy indications rather than the increase in the frequency of IgAN. As is known, there are significant regional differences in the prevalence of PGDs.

For the comparison of similar international data, we created a table (Table 3) from similar articles reporting the frequency of GN published in different parts of the world. We tried to obtain a more formal table by eliminating the secondary GN causes from the data and create an easily understandable and comparable data. However,

| Table 1 Patients’ data at the time when kidney biopsy was performed |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| **Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)** | 130 ± 20 |
| **Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)** | 81 ± 12 |
| **BMI (kg/m²)** | 27.3 ± 9.7 |
| **Glucose (mg/dL)** | 97 ± 31 |
| **BUN (mg/dL)** | 23 ± 19 |
| **Creatinine (mg/dL)** | 1.0 (0.7–1.6) |
| **eGFR (CKD-EPI, mL/min/1.73m²)** | 82.9 (47.0–113.0) |
| **The total number of glomeruli (per biopsy)** | 17 ± 10 |
| **Uric acid (mg/dL)** | 62 ± 1.8 |
| **Triglyceride (mg/dL)** | 175.5 (121.0–256.0) |
| **LDL-cholesterol (mg/dL)** | 163 ± 83 |
| **ALT (IU/L)** | 17 (13.0–24.0) |
| **Calcium (mg/dL)** | 8.8 ± 0.8 |
| **Hemoglobin (g/dL)** | 12.9 ± 2.1 |
| **Serum albumin (g/dL)** | 3.2 ± 0.9 |
| **Proteinuria (mg/day)** | 3300 (1467–6307) |

**BMI** Body mass index, eGFR Estimated glomerular filtration rate. *Median (interquartile range)*
Table 2 The data of patients according to the type of PGD

|                     | MCD (n = 259) | FSGS (n = 848) | MN (n = 992) | IgAN (n = 995) | Mes. PGN (n = 97) | MPGN (n = 349) | Acute PGN (n = 31) | CGN (n = 244) |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Age Mean ± SD       | 36.1 ± 15.4   | 40.4 ± 14.2    | 46.7 ± 14.5 | 38.4 ± 13     | 36.8 ± 13.8       | 37.3 ± 15.6    | 43.1 ± 17.2       | 48 ± 16.6     |
| Gender n (%) Woman  | 118 (45.9)    | 415 (48.9)     | 409 (41.3)  | 371 (37.3)    | 56 (58.9)         | 168 (48.3)     | 13 (40.6)         | 112 (45.5)    |
| Creatinine (mg/dL)  | 0.89 ± 0.65   | 1.29 ± 1.17    | 1 ± 0.8     | 1.55 ± 1.26   | 0.97 ± 0.69       | 1.51 ± 1.41    | 2.23 ± 2.22       | 4.1 ± 3.34    |
| Mean ± SD           |               |                |             |               |                   |                |                   |               |
| eGFR (CKD-EPI) mL/min Mean ± SD | 105 ± 33       | 82 ± 36        | 94 ± 33     | 72 ± 36       | 99 ± 33           | 77 ± 40        | 62 ± 43           | 30 ± 30       |
| Serum albumin (g/dL) Mean ± SD | 2.61 ± 1.03    | 3.39 ± 0.93    | 2.77 ± 0.86 | 3.85 ± 0.69   | 3.52 ± 0.09       | 3.15 ± 0.89    | 3.19 ± 0.85       | 3.24 ± 0.73    |
| Proteinuria (mg/day) Median (IQR) | 5835 (2400–9000) | 3400 (1770–5740) | 6000 (3400–9280) | 1822 (1000–3400) | 1600 (540–3900) | 3500 (1400–6120) | 2310 (900–7435) | 2100 (1230–3690) |
| Hematuria n (%)     | 47 (18.2)     | 277 (32.6)     | 288 (29.1)  | 633 (63.7)    | 42 (43.8)         | 170 (48.7)     | 22 (68.8)         | 191 (77.6)    |
| Pyuria n (%)        | 31 (13.5)     | 113 (15.2)     | 115 (13.2)  | 178 (20.0)    | 15 (18.8)         | 83 (31.4)      | 8 (28.6)          | 92 (41.1)     |
| SBP (mmHg) Mean ± SD | 122 ± 17      | 131 ± 19       | 129 ± 19    | 130 ± 21      | 129 ± 25          | 132 ± 23       | 142 ± 23          | 136 ± 20      |
| DBP (mmHg) Mean ± SD | 76 ± 10       | 81 ± 11        | 81 ± 11     | 82 ± 12       | 81 ± 15           | 82 ± 13        | 84 ± 13           | 82 ± 11       |

Abbreviations: Acute PGN acute proliferative glomerulonephritis, CGN crescentic glomerulonephritis, DPB diastolic blood pressure, eGFR estimated glomerular filtration rate, FSGS Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, IgAN IgA nephropathy, MCD minimal change disease, Mes.PGN Mesangioproliferative glomerulonephritis (non-IgA), MN membranous nephropathy, MPGN membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis, SPB systolic blood pressure, PGD primary glomerular disease
as can be seen in this table, both the first publication and present data present biopsy results in patients with nephrotic syndrome in our country; biopsy results are more consistent with European data and MN is detected more frequently. However, IgAN is common in Asian countries and FSGS in the United States.

When all PGD patients were included, IgAN became the most common PGD in our country and the rate became similar to that in other European and Asian countries. Although IgA deposits may be seen in biopsies of individuals without renal disease, these cases generally do not have clinical features of GN [21, 35], and it is known that differences in the indications for biopsy in management practices across countries can affect the incidence and prevalence of diagnosed PGDs [22]. Routine urine screening is performed in some countries such as Japan and Korea. Such applications may allow the detection and biopsy of AUA cases and thus high AUA rates in GN registries. On the other hand, although our data show that the frequency of biopsies due to AUA seems to be increasing (from 10.8 to 17.8%) in our country, it is still relatively low compared to European and Asian countries. For example, the rate of patients undergoing biopsy for AUA is 51% in Italy, 25% in Spain, 37% in the Czech Republic, and 48% in Japan (Table 3).

The prevalence of IgAN is higher in Asian cohorts and Caucasians, whereas FSGS is more common in North America [7–9]. Another finding consistent with these data is that the percentage of patients diagnosed with MN decreased in parallel with the decrease in the proportion of patients undergoing biopsy for nephrotic syndrome indication. There were significant changes in both biopsy indications and age groups between the 2014 and 2019 data, as presented in Figs. 4 and 5. Out data clearly showed that the peak of PGD in our country moved to older age groups. This might suggest aging may cause an increase of IgAN and the decrease of MN. But biopsy indication in IgAN due to AUA significantly increased from 25.5% in 2014 to 39.8% in 2019, and nephrotic syndrome indication in MN was not considerably changed (88.2% in 2014 and 81.3% in 2019) (Table 4). In the last decade, many studies have shown that even proteinuria at the level of 0.5-1 g/day has a significant effect on the prognosis of IgAN [10–12] and steroid treatment may have a positive effect on prognosis in such IgAN patients [13–16]. This may be the most important reason for the recent increase in the frequency of renal biopsy for AUA and, hence IgAN, in our country. In addition, the increase in the number of nephrologists and the number of centres that can perform a kidney biopsy in our country is likely to play an important role in performing biopsy earlier in patients with AUA.

Another important point in our study was the increased prevalence of FSGS in all patient groups, more
prominent in patients with nephrotic syndrome (Table 3, Fig. 2). FSGS is the most common cause of nephrotic syndrome in the United States [17–19]. However, there are publications indicating that the incidence of FSGS decreases relatively in biopsy patients due to the increased prevalence of diabetic nephropathy [20]. There are similar publications from Brazil (Table 3). In other regions, FSGS is the second most common cause of nephrotic syndrome after MN. In order to explain the increase in the frequency of FSGS in our data, we need more detailed data. However, compared to our previous report, we found that our rate of patients with diabetes (possibly also with high body mass index) and hypertension has increased (from 6 to 10% and from 26 to 32.4%, respectively) and this might have eventually increased the frequency of secondary FSGS. Therefore, it cannot be ignored that some of these secondary FSGS patients might have been registered as having primary FSGS in our database.

MN was more common in patients over 40 years of age (Fig. 3). This finding is compatible with many European data [24–26]. On the other hand, IgAN was the most common PGD in the group under 40 years of age. This finding is consistent with European and Asian data, as well as the United States and Brazilian data (where FSGS was the most common PGD when all patients were included) [17, 18, 32].

There are some limitations of this study. We included only the data obtained at the time of renal biopsy. As we are currently collecting data on our long-term results, we have not included these data (renal outcomes, treatments, etc.) in this study. Misclassification due to different definition or measurement variables could be a problem in all centres. Since we excluded patients without light microscopy and IF findings, errors in the diagnosis of glomerular diseases such as FSGS, which are likely to have such diagnostic confusion, were minimized. For this purpose, we excluded more than 500 patients. In addition, the identity information and centre information of each patient registered in the database were recorded anonymously in order to minimize the patient selection bias. Another point is, as in every retrospective study, there were patients who lacked some data. Also, although we asked the centers to include all their patients’ data complying with the inclusion criteria, there might have been some patients that were recorded...
or data that some centres failed to input to the database. The biopsy specimens were examined only by local pathologists and the diagnosis could not be confirmed by another pathologist. However, all these limitations are common problems in most recording systems. The subtypes of FSGS and MPGN were not specified because pathology reports do not routinely include FSGS subtypes, and the new classification of MPGN, according to IF findings, have recently begun to be included in renal biopsy reports in our country. Therefore, we did not present these subgroups data. On the other hand, only PGDs were included in our study, and the database has been specially prepared for it. This is the major advantage of the present study because previous epidemiological studies involved both primary and secondary glomerular diseases. Eventually, we assume that our data has the power to represent PGD patients across the country.

**Conclusions**

The distribution of PGDs in Turkey has become similar to that in other European countries. IgAN diagnosed with renal biopsy has become more prevalent compared to MN, becoming the most common PGD in Turkey.

### Table 3

| Country | All PGD Patients(%) | Patients with nephrotic syndrome | Biopsy indication (%) |
|---------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
|         | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Nephrotic syndrome | AUA |
| Turkey (TSN-GOLD 2014) [5] | MN (28.8%) | FSGS (19.3%) | IgAN (17.2%) | MN (43.2%) | FSGS (19.7%) | MCD (10.3%) | 57.8 | 108 |
| Turkey (TSN-GOLD 2019) [5] | IgAN (25.7%) | MN (25.6%) | FSGS (21.9%) | MN (39.8%) | FSGS (25.2%) | MCD (11.0%) | 52 | 18 |
| France [23] [5] | IgAN (29.7%) | MN (19.0%) | CGN (16.8%) | – | – | – | – | – |
| Italy [24] | IgAN (43.5%) | MN (23.4%) | FSGS (13.1%) | MN (44.1%) | FSGS (16.9%) | MCD (16.7%) | 45 | 51 |
| Spain [25] [5] | – | – | – | MN | MCD | FSGS | 35 | 25 |
| England [26] | IgAN (38.8%) | MN (29.4%) | MCD (9.8%) | – | – | – | – | – |
| Czech Republic [27] [5] | IgAN (34.5%) | MCD (12.5%) | Mes.PGN(%11.3) | IgAN** | MN | FSGS | 42 | 37 |
| Lithuania [28] | IgAN(34%) | FSGS (13.2%) | MPGN (12.5%) | – | – | – | – | – |
| Japan [29] | IgAN (~ 50%) | – | – | MCD (40%) | MN (35.6%) | FSGS (13%) | 16.5 | 48 |
| South Korea [30] | IgAN (38.2%) | MCD | MN | MCD (38.5%) | MN (25.7%) | IgAN (11.1%) | – | – |
| China [31] | IgAN (45.2%) | Mes. PGD (25.6%) | MN (9.9%) | – | – | – | 41.5 | 27.2 |
| Brazil [32] | FSGS (29.7%) | MN (20.7%) | IgAN (17.8%) | – | – | – | 11.1 | 3.2 |
| U.S.A. [18, 33] [5] | FSGS | IgAN | MN | FSGS | MN | MCD | – | – |
| Taiwan [34] | IgAN (20%) | FSGS (21.6%) | MN (20.6%) | MN (28.8%) | MCD (28.2%) | FSGS (24.8%) | – | – |
| Colombia [11] [5] | IgAN (22.6%) | FSGS (20.1%) | MN (14.9%) | – | – | – | – | – |
| Poland [12] | IgAN (51.2%) | MPGN (19.3%) | MN (11.2%) | MN | FSGS | IgAN | – | – |

**Abbreviations:** AUA Asymptomatic urinary abnormalities, CGN crescentic glomerulonephritis, FSGS Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, IgAN IgA nephropathy, MCD minimal change disease, Mes.PGN Mesangioproliferative glomerulonephritis (non-IgA), MN membranous nephropathy, MPGN membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis, PGD primary glomerular disease, TSN-GOLD Turkish Society of Nephrology Glomerular Diseases

*a* Current study; *b* cumulative data of different age and periods, *c* including pediatrics cases, *d* This percentage was presented as the percentage of nephritic syndrome, but asymptomatic urinary abnormalities seem to be involved also. *e* These results are the combination of two different studies [9, 10]. *f* including secondary cases

### Table 4

| 2014 Data (%) | 2019 Data (%) |
|---------------|---------------|
|                | AUA | Mixt NS | Nephritic syndrome | NS | AUA | Mixt NS | Nephritic syndrome | NS |
| IgAN          | 25.5 | 9.5 | 37.0 | 28.0 | 39.8 | 5.3 | 35.5 | 19.4 |
| FSGS          | 14.7 | 8.0 | 13.8 | 63.6 | 21.5 | 4.7 | 11.1 | 62.7 |
| MN            | 5.2 | 3.8 | 2.9 | 88.2 | 13.7 | 3.5 | 1.5 | 81.3 |
| MCD           | 2.7 | 2.7 | 1.4 | 93.2 | 9.0 | 1.7 | 2.8 | 86.4 |
| MPGN          | 7.3 | 8.7 | 15.3 | 68.7 | 16.6 | 5.3 | 16.6 | 61.5 |
| CGN           | 5.1 | 10.2 | 71.2 | 13.6 | 8.0 | 9.3 | 73.5 | 9.3 |

**Abbreviations:** AUA asymptomatic urinary abnormalities, NS Nephrotic syndrome, IgAN IgA nephropathy, FSGS Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, MN membranous nephropathy, MCD minimal change disease, CGN crescentic glomerulonephritis
MN is still the most common cause of nephrotic syndrome among PGDs.

Abbreviations
Acute PGN: Acute proliferative glomerulonephritis; AUA: Asymptomatic urinary abnormalities; CGN: Crescentic glomerulonephritis; CKD: Chronic kidney disease; CVD-EPI: Chronic kidney disease epidemiology collaboration; ERA-EDTA: European Dialysis and Transplant Association; ESRD: End-stage renal disease; IF: Immunofluorescence microscopy; IgAN: IgA nephropathy; FGSG: focal segmental glomerulosclerosis; GN: Glomerulonephritis; MCD: Minimal change disease; MesPGN: Mesangioproliferative glomerulonephritis (non-IgA); MN: Membranous nephropathy; MPGN: Membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis; PGD: Primary glomerular disease; PGDs: Primary glomerular diseases; TSN: Turkish Society of Nephrology; TSN-GOLD: Turkish Society of Nephrology Glomerular Diseases; USRDS: United States Renal Data System

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Ethics approval and informed consent
The Ethics Committee of Istanbul University, Istanbul Medical Faculty approved the study. Due to the retrospective nature of the study, informed consent was not received.

Authors’ contributions
Concept - A.T., A.S., E.C., H.Y., N.E., N.S., K.D., F.D., U.D., A.U., G.S., M.S., M.G., ET, B.D., S.S., M.Y., S.S., S.G., O.S., K.K., Z.B.B., I.S., R.T.K., Z.Y., C.B.C., C.C., F.C., Z.A., D.D.O., C.B.G., M.A., S.P., O.G., S.K., Z.B.B., I.S., I.K., K.T., Z.Y., R.T.K., C.O.; Design - A.T., A.S., E.C., H.Y., N.E., N.S., K.D., F.D., U.D., A.U., G.S., M.S., M.G., ET, B.D., S.S., M.Y., S.S., S.G., O.S., K.K., Z.B.B., I.S., I.K., K.T., Z.Y., R.T.K., C.O.; Supervision - A.T., A.S., E.C., H.Y., N.E., N.S., K.D., F.D., U.D., A.U., G.S., M.S., M.G., ET, B.D., S.S., M.Y., S.S., S.G., O.S., K.K., Z.B.B., I.S., I.K., K.T., Z.Y., R.T.K., C.O.; Data Collection and/or Processing - A.T., A.S., E.C., H.Y., N.E., N.S., K.D., F.D., U.D., A.U., G.S., M.S., M.G., ET, B.D., S.S., M.Y., S.S., S.G., O.S., K.K., Z.B.B., I.S., I.K., K.T., Z.Y., R.T.K., C.O.; Literature Search - A.S., E.C., H.Y., N.E., N.S., K.D., F.D., U.D., A.U., G.S., M.S., M.G., ET, B.D., S.S., M.Y., S.S., S.G., O.S., K.K., Z.B.B., I.S., I.K., K.T., Z.Y., R.T.K., C.O.; Turkmen et al. BMC Nephrology (2020) 21:481

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Availability of data and materials
We created a database for primary glomerular diseases with the name of Turkish Society of Nephrology Glomerular Diseases Working Group (TSN-GOLD) in 04.04.2008. We published the first results of our study in 2014 and now, we present here the extended results. The data can be found at the following address: http://phys.org.tr/login.php

Consent for publication
Not applicable.

Competing interests
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Author details
1Istanbul Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey.
2Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Istanbul Medipol University, Istanbul, Turkey.
3Hasaki Training and Research Hospital, Nephrology, Istanbul, Turkey.
4Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Kocaeli University, Kocaeli, Turkey.
5Cerrahpaşa Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey.
6Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey.
7Ankara Numune Training and Research Hospital, Nephrology, Ankara, Turkey.
8Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey.
9Hamidiye Sisi Efthal Training and Research Hospital, Nephrology, Istanbul, Turkey.
10Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Eskişehir, Turkey.
11Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Erciyes University, Kayseri, Turkey.
12Sultan Abdülhamit Han Training and Research Hospital, Nephrology, Istanbul, Turkey.
13Izmir Bozyaka Training and Research Hospital, Nephrology, İzmir, Turkey.
14Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Pamukkale University, Denizli, Turkey.
15Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Sakarya University, Adapazari, Sakarya, Turkey.
16Bakırköy Sadi Konuk Training and Research Hospital, Nephrology, Istanbul, Turkey.
17Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Akdeniz University, Antalya, Turkey.
18Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Afyonkarahisar University, Afyon, Turkey.
19Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Sutcu Imam University, Kahramanmaras, Turkey.
20Medical Faculty, Nephrology, İnönü University, Ankara, Turkey.
21Dr. Lütfi Kırdar Kartal Training and Research Hospital, Nephrology, Istanbul, Turkey.
22Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Inonu University, Malatya, Turkey.
23Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey.
24Meram Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya, Turkey.
25Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Dicle University, Diyarbakır, Turkey.
26Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Bezmialem Vakif University, Istanbul, Turkey.
27Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Dokuz Eylül University, İzmir, Turkey.
28Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Cerrahpasa Training and Research Hospital, Nephrology, Bursa, Turkey.
29Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey.
30Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Cukurova University, Adana, Turkey.
31Kocaeli State Hospital, Nephrology, Kocaeli, Turkey.
32Okmeydani Training and Research Hospital, Nephrology, Istanbul, Turkey.
33Istanbul Training and Research Hospital, Nephrology, Istanbul, Turkey.
34Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Lise Hospital, Lise, France.
35Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey.
36Istanbul Training and Research Hospital, Nephrology, Istanbul, Turkey.
37Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Mersin University, Mersin, Turkey.
38Taksim Training and Research Hospital, Nephrology, Istanbul, Turkey.
39Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Baskent University, Ankara, Turkey.
40Ankara Training and Research Hospital, Nephrology, Ankara, Turkey.
41Batman State Hospital, Nephrology, Batman, Turkey.
42Selçuk Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Selcuk University, Konya, Turkey.
43Marmara University, Medical Faculty, Nephrology, Istanbul, Turkey.
44Balikesir Training and Research Hospital, Nephrology, Balikesir, Turkey.
45Goztepe Training and Research Hospital, Nephrology, Istanbul, Turkey.

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