

# Membranous Glomerulopathy

## What is membranous glomerulopathy?

**Membranous glomerulopathy** is a kidney disease that causes protein in the urine (**proteinuria**).

In membranous glomerulopathy, immune deposits are present in the kidney and cause injury.

## What are the signs and symptoms of membranous glomerulopathy?

The most common signs and symptoms of membranous glomerulopathy are:

- Protein in the urine (**proteinuria**)
- Swelling of the feet and legs (**edema**)

## What causes membranous glomerulopathy?

Some cases of membranous glomerulopathy have no known cause.

Most cases of membranous glomerulopathy have an identifiable cause.

Known causes include:

- Antibodies against the kidney
- Autoimmune diseases (such as lupus)
- Infections
- Medications and illicit drugs
- Tumors

## How is membranous glomerulopathy diagnosed?

A **kidney biopsy** is the only way to diagnose membranous glomerulopathy because several other kidney diseases produce similar symptoms and laboratory abnormalities.

## Why is it important to diagnose membranous glomerulopathy?

Many kidney diseases cause proteinuria but may differ in treatment from membranous glomerulopathy. A diagnosis of membranous glomerulopathy may allow your doctor to identify the cause in your case.

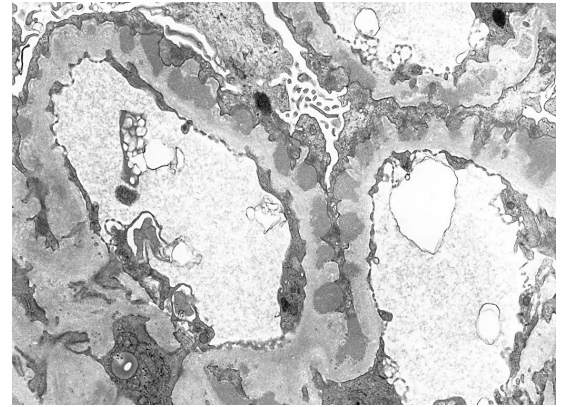
## Is additional testing necessary?

Your physician may order tests on urine or blood. Some tests include measuring antibodies against your kidney, like **PLA2R** and **THSD7A**.

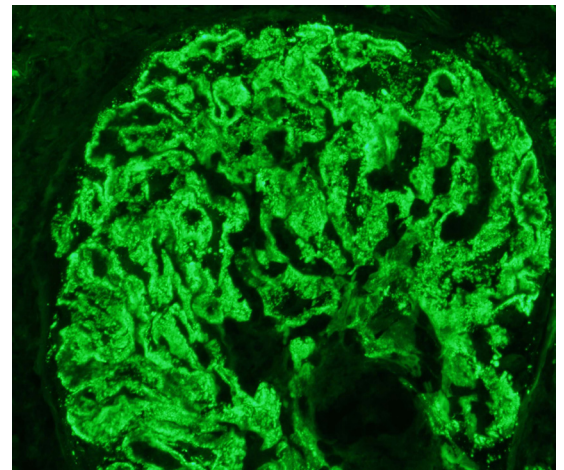
These tests may be used to monitor response to treatment.

## What happens to a patient with membranous glomerulopathy?

- Some patients may improve without treatment
- Some patients will respond to treatment
- Some patients will have proteinuria for many years
- Some patients develop renal failure and require dialysis or kidney transplantation



Immune deposits in the kidney biopsy by electron microscopy



Immune deposits in the kidney biopsy