SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Diabetic nephropathy is a microangiopathy of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), which lacks of effective methods for early detection. Zhihao Lin et al. showcased the predictive role of urinary NAG combined with serum RBP in early detection of diabetic nephropathy in this study. Moreover, they discussed the underlying injury of NAG and RBP in diabetic patients. In general, this study is instructive, and the experimental methods and data can well support the conclusion of this paper. I have only some minor concerns on the paper: 1) Compared with the existing indicators in clinical, what is the key advantage of urinary NAG combined with serum RBP? 2) This paper should be polished before publishing. 3) The authors expressed that urinary NAG and serum RBP are promising indicators for early detection of diabetic nephropathy. How much time can they save for the patients compared with that of the current clinical test?

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In this article, the authors focused on exploring the role of urinary NAG (N-acetyl-β-D-glucosaminidase) and serum RBP (retinol-binding protein) in early detection of diabetic nephropathy. Baseline data collection and logistic regression model have been used to verify the conjecture of authors. The results showed that the expression of urinary NAG and serum RBP in group B (type 2 diabetic nephropathy) was higher than that in group A (type 2 diabetes mellitus), and the difference was statistically significant. So, from the point of my view, this article is well-written. The experimental design is reasonable, and the results reflects the conclusion as well. I recommend its acceptance after the minor revision. My detailed comments are: 1. In this article, there was no significant difference in age, gender, duration of diabetes, combined hyperlipidemia and combined hypertension between the groups A and B. So, what is the regional divergence of the patients in the two groups? As the regional divergence is related to the living habit of patients and affect their progression of disease. 2. Although this article is well-written, the English needs further improved to increase the readability. For example, on page 1, "The baseline data of 50 patients with 2 type 2

diabetic nephropathy admitted to our hospital during the same period were collected and included in group B", an extra 2, and were should be was.

1. Reply: All subjects included in this study were from the same region, and they were supplemented in the article, so there was no regional difference.
2. Reply: The advantages of urinary NAG in combination with serum RBP have been clearly identified in the red highlight of the discussion.
3. Reply: Specific time savings require additional extended studies, which cannot be determined at this time, but the benefits have been added in the red highlight of the discussion.