



# Pathology GUS

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# Pathology Lecture 3

## Nephritic syndrome

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# Nephritic Syndrome: Presentation

- **PHAROH**
- **Proteinuria** → non-nephrotic range of proteinuria, so it's less than 3.5
  - $<3.5\text{g}/1.73\text{m}^2/\text{day}$
- **Hematuria**
  - Abrupt onset
- **Azotemia**
  - Increased creatinine and urea
- **RBC Casts** Indicates glomerular origin of the hematuria.
- **Oliguria** Decreased urine output and is a manifestation of the urinary impairment.
- **HTN** Related to the fluid retention and the azotemia.



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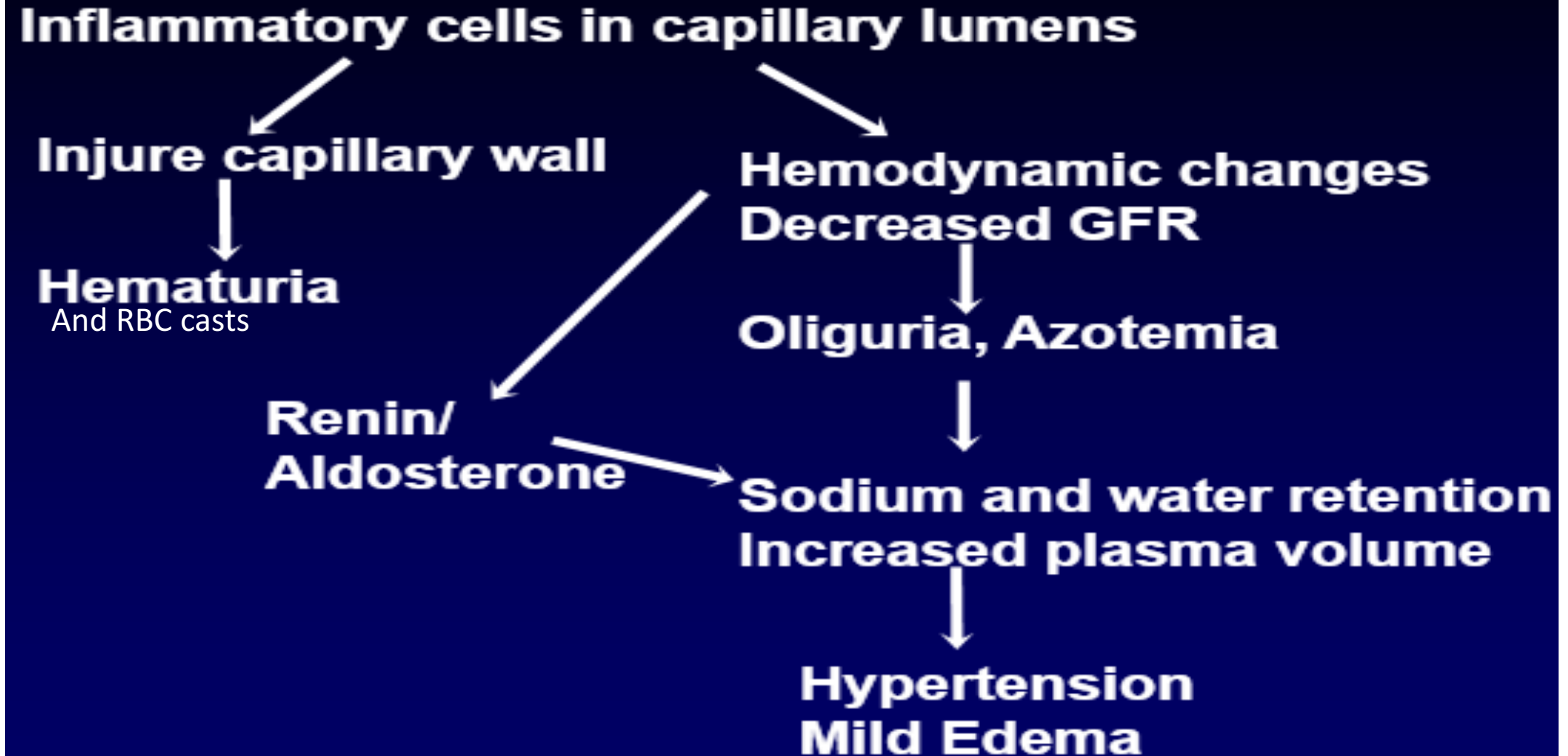
Peripheral Edema/Puffy Eyes

“Smoky Urine”

# The Nephritic Syndrome

- Pathogenesis: **glomerular** inflammation
- **leukocytes & proliferation of cells in glomeruli**
- **Injury of capillary walls** → escape of RBCs into urine (**hematuria & RBC casts**)
- **↓ GFR** → **oliguria, fluid retention (edema), and azotemia.**
- **Hypertension** (result of both fluid retention and **↑renin** release from kidneys).
- **May have some proteinuria (not heavy)**

# Pathogenesis



**Glomerular diseases mostly  
presenting with Nephritic  
syndrome**

# 1-Membranoproliferative Glomerulonephritis (MPGN )

- Abnormal proliferation of glomerular cells and inflammation
- Usually nephritic syndrome; some have a combined nephrotic-nephritic picture.
- Types of MPGN:
  1. - type I (80% of cases)→ immune complex disease (The inciting antigen is not known)
  2. - type II → excessive complement activation

## Type I MPGN

- **circulating immune complexes** (circulate , reach the kidney & get deposited inside the glomeruli >> elicit an inflammatory reaction >> begin the cascade of the different changes which will give us the pathogenesis of nephritic syndrome)
- **Many associations: hepatitis B and C; SLE (systemic lupus erythematosus); infected A-V shunts.**



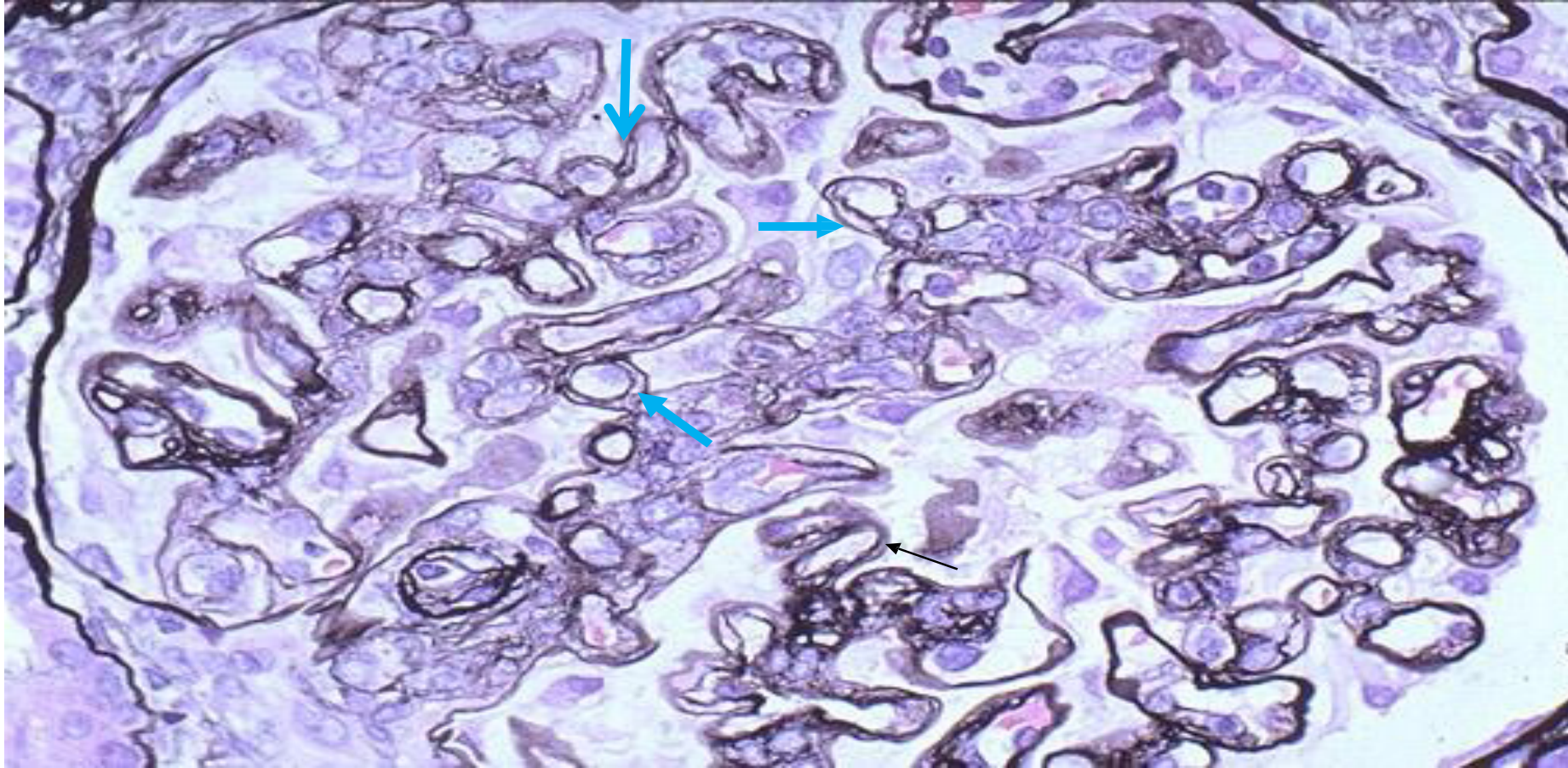
## Type II MPGN (*dense-deposit disease*) (*DDD*)

- **Cause: excessive complement activation**
- **autoantibody against C3 convertase called C3 nephritic factor** (it stabilizes the enzyme and lead to uncontrolled cleavage of C3 and activation of the alternative complement pathway).
- **Result: consumption of C3 complement and Hypocomplementemia**

The activated c3 particles will travel in the circulation and reach the glomeruli and get deposited there

- **Morphology**
- **LM**
- both types of MPGN are similar by LM.
- glomeruli are large with accentuated **lobular appearance** and show **proliferation of mesangial and endothelial cells** as well as infiltrating leukocytes
- **GBM** (because of the inflammation & the injury inside the basement membrane and the deposition of the immune complexes) is thickened (**double contour** or **"tram track"** )
- The **tram track** appearance is caused by **"splitting"** of the **GBM**

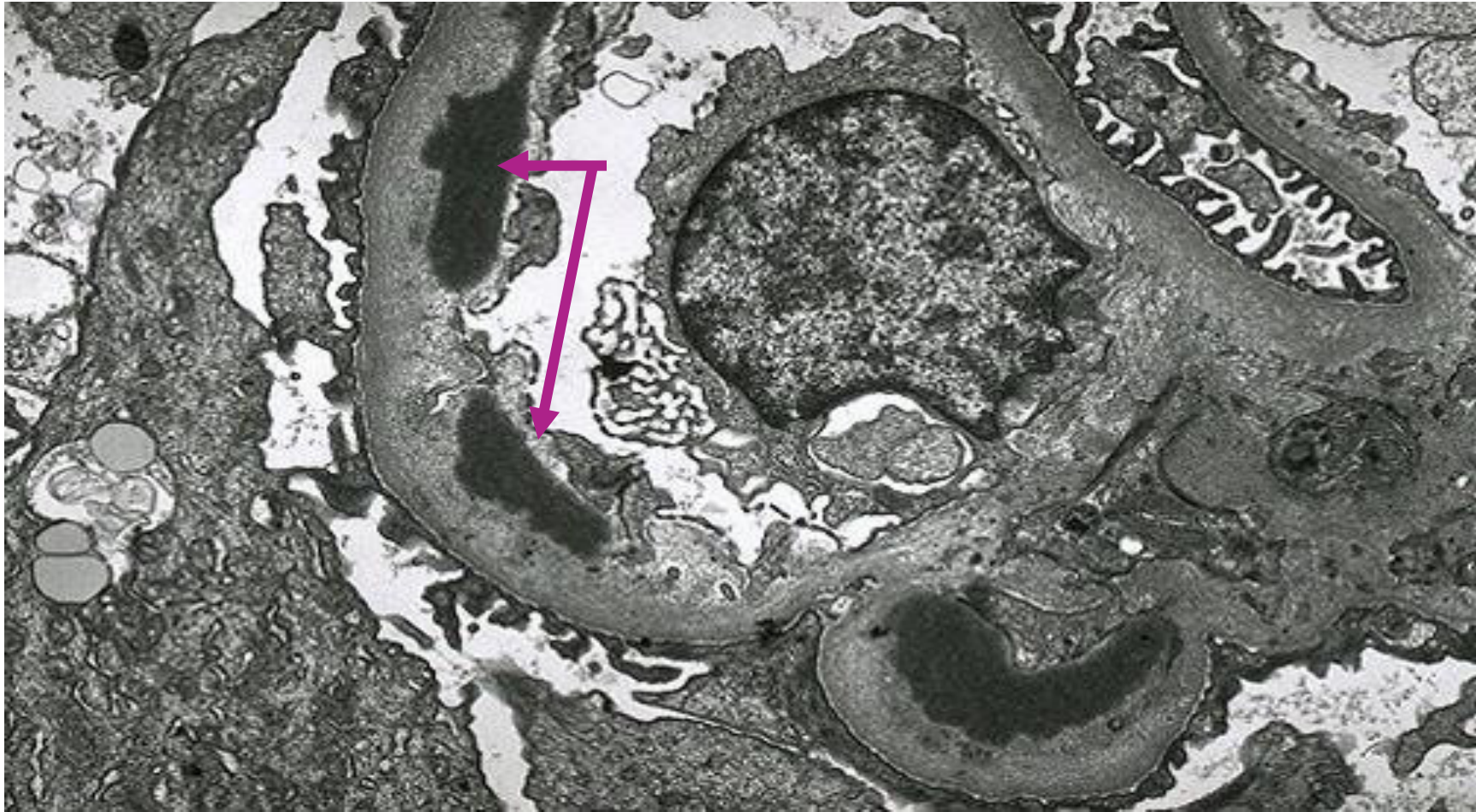
silver stain -**double contour** of the basement membranes ("**tram-track**" ) that is characteristic of (MPGN)(arrows).



Silver stain>> for illustration of elastic fibers

- **IF ( immunofluorescence)**
- **Type I MPGN → subendothelial electron- dense deposits (IgG and complement C1q and C4)**
- **Type II MPGN → C3 alone in GBM**

EM- dense deposits in the basement membrane of MPGN type II in a ribbon-like mass (arrows)



- **Clinical Course** Regardless of the type
- **prognosis poor.**
- No remission.
- 40% progress to end-stage renal failure.
- 30% had variable degrees of renal insufficiency.
- **Dense-deposit disease (type II) has a worse prognosis.**
- **It tends to recur in renal transplant recipients**  
Because the problem is in the immune system

## 2- Acute Postinfectious (Poststreptococcal) Glomerulonephritis (PSGN)

- deposition of **immune complexes** + proliferation of glomerular cells and leukocytes ( neutrophils).
- Not direct infection of the kidney
- Cause: **an immune-mediated reaction to a previous infection of pharynx or skin**
- **Post-streptococcal** GN (most common).
- Infections by other organisms possible as pneumococci and staphylococci

## Poststreptococcal GN

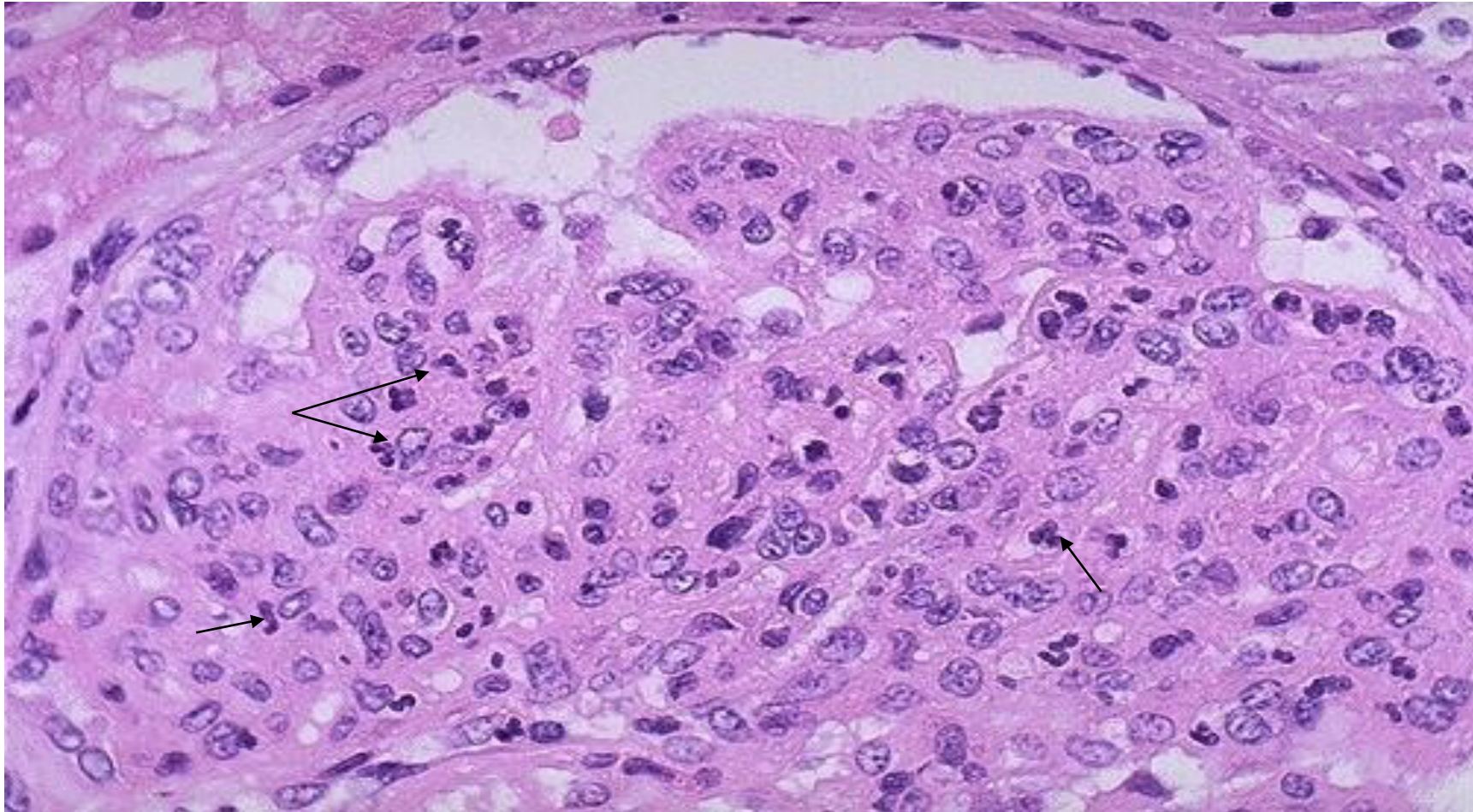
- 1-4 wks after recovery from a group A streptococcal infection (pharynx or skin).
- A few strains (3%) of  $\beta$ -hemolytic streptococci are capable of this
- **Mechanism: binding of immune complexes to GBM proteins /**
- **or antibodies to bacterial antigens “planted” in the GBM**

This will lead to activation of the inflammatory cascade of the glomeruli--->nephritic syndrome



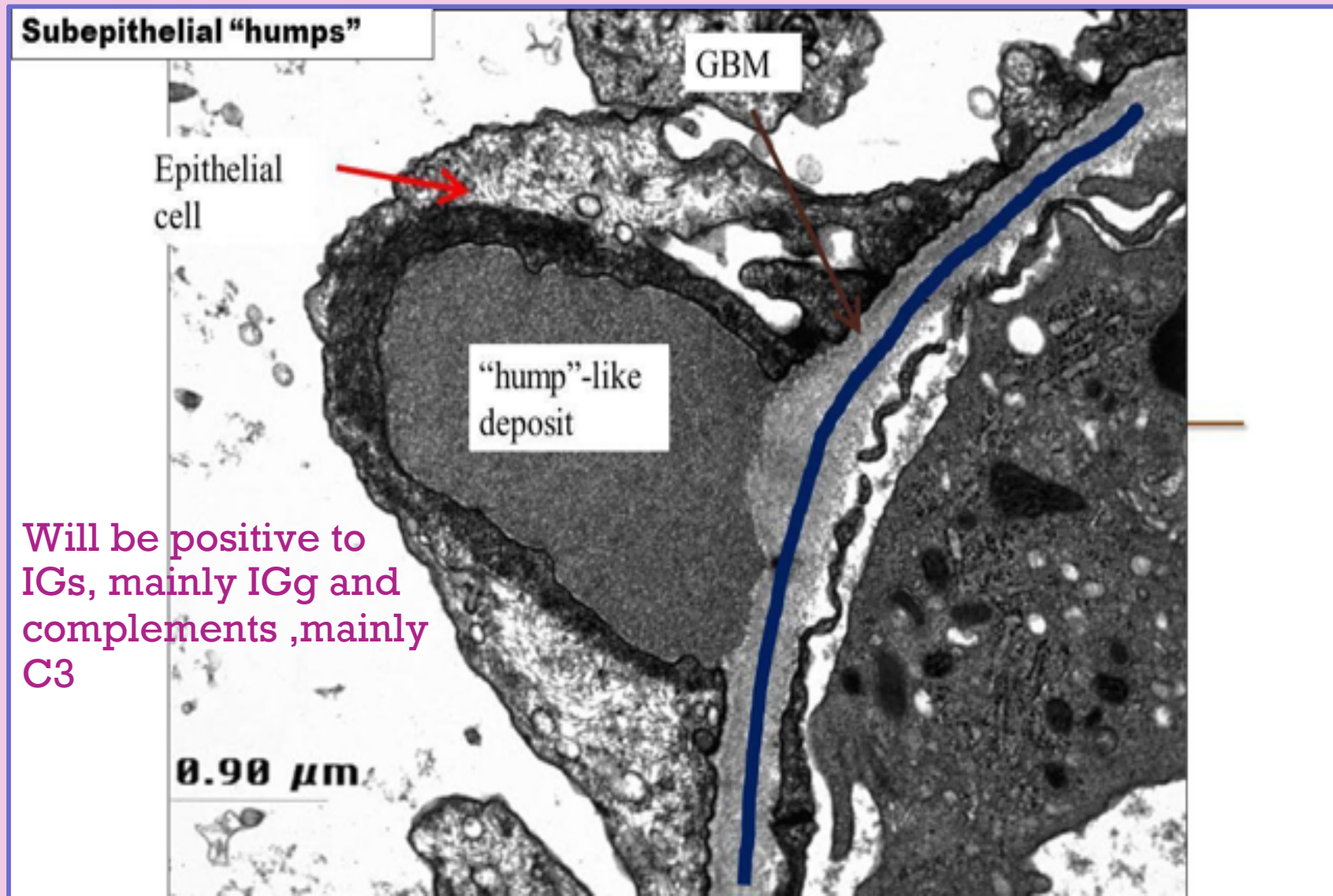
PSGN: increased epithelial, endothelial, and mesangial cells as well as neutrophils in and around the capillary loops (arrows)

Will lead to occlusion of the capillaries lumena



- **LM**
- proliferation of endothelial and mesangial cells and neutrophilic infiltrate.
- **IF**
- **deposits of IgG and complement within the capillary walls**
- **EM**
- immune complexes "**subepithelial humps**" in GBM.

Looks like the hump of the camel



Will be positive to  
IGs, mainly IgG and  
complements ,mainly  
C3

# PSGN- Clinical Course

- **acute onset .**
- **Many of patients are children**
- **fever, nausea, and nephritic syndrome.**
- **gross hematuria.**
- **Mild proteinuria.**
- **Serum complement levels are low during the active phase of the disease.** Hypocomplementemia
- **↑serum anti-streptolysin O antibody titers.** Evidence of a prior infection with streptococci
- **Recovery occurs in most children.** By clearance of antibodies after a period of time

### 3- IgA Nephropathy

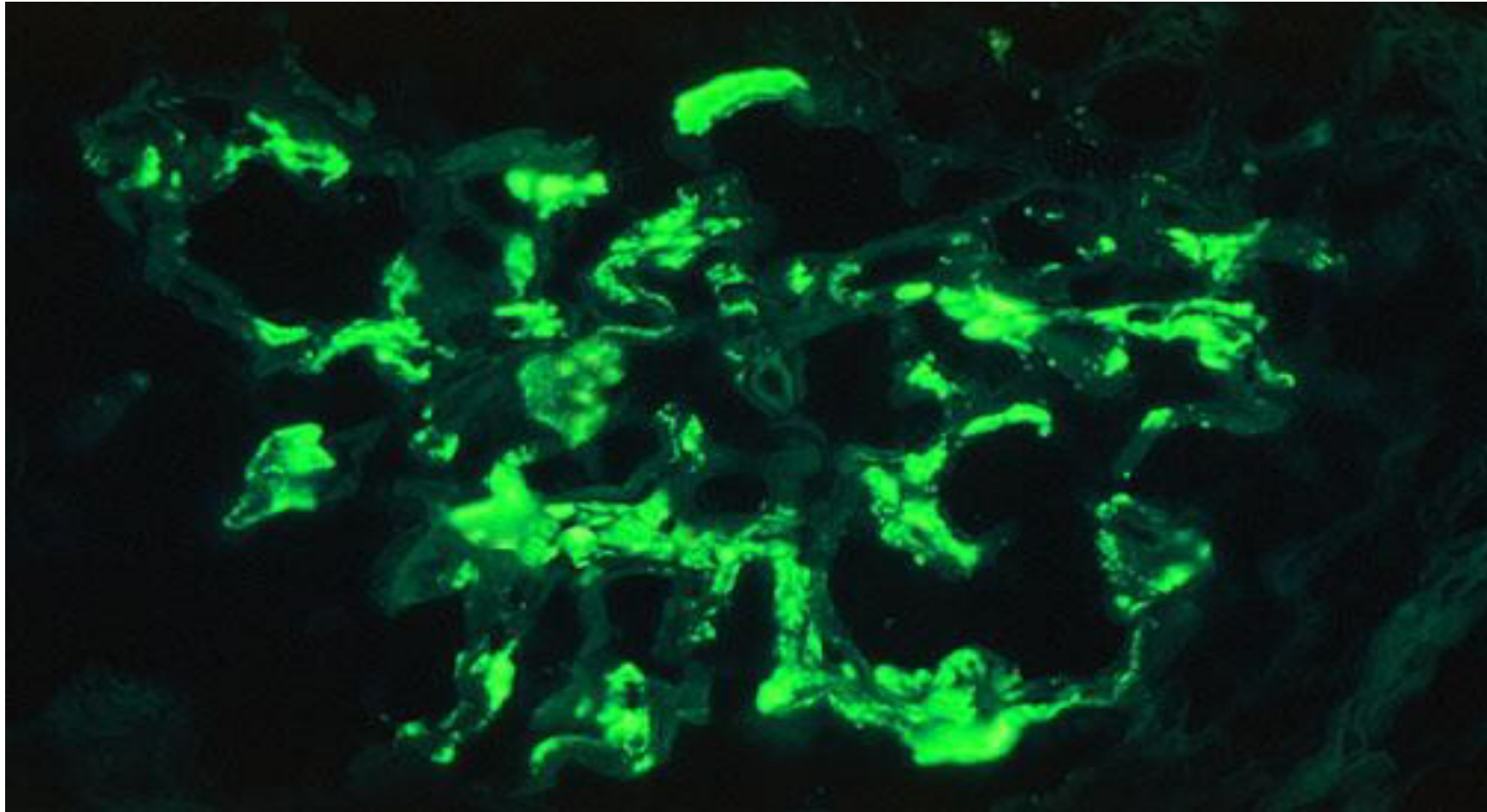
- *one of the most common causes of recurrent microscopic or gross hematuria*
- **children** and **young adults**.
- hematuria (microscopic or gross) 1 or 2 days after **nonspecific** upper respiratory tract infection.
- Hematuria lasts several days and then subsides and then recur every few months. (**Episodic**)

# Pathogenesis

- abnormality in IgA production and clearance.
- **LM:** variable
- **IF:** mesangial deposition of IgA with C3
- **EM:** deposits in the mesangium

Very characteristic &  
diagnostic

IF : IgA mesangial staining.



This is the glomerulus, and you can appreciate the deposits in the mesangium ( the fluorescent area)

Disease	Presentatio n	Age	LM	IF	EM	Prognosis
MCD	nephrotic	Children	none	negative	Effaced foot processes	good
FSGS	nephrotic	adults	Segmental sclerosis	negative	Effaced foot processes	Poor?
MNP	nephrotic	adults	Thickened GBM	IgG+ C3+	Sub-epithelial spikes and domes	Poor?
MPGN-type1	Nephritic/ nephrotic	adults	Tram track	Ig s	Subendothelial deposits	poor
MPGN-type2	Nephritic/ nephrotic	adults	Tram track	C3+	Dense deposits	poor
IgA nephrophth	nephritic	Children, young adults	variable	IgA+	Mesangial deposits	variable
PSGN	nephritic	children	hypercellularity	IgG+ C3+	Subepithelial deposits (humps)	good
Alport syndrome	hematuria, hearing loss	children	variable	negative	Basket weave GBM	poor