Author's response to reviews

Title: Progressive neurological disease induced by tacrolimus in a renal transplant recipient: Case report.

Authors:
Marjan Chegounchi (mchegoun@yahoo.com)
Michael G Hanna (m.hanna@ion.ucl.ac.uk)
Guy H Neild (g.neild@ucl.ac.uk)

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We thank the referees for their helpful comments:

Reviewer: MC Nassogne

1. Our patient was of mixed race (half white English half African) and had originally presented with severe hypertension and renal failure. Renal biopsy showed a severe obliterative vascular pathology, but no primary glomerular disease. (This is a relatively common condition in young patients who are of ethnic African origin, but never seen in Caucasians). We have amended the text to make this clear - see Case Report, p2.

2. We agree that the quality of figure 2 was sub-optimal and we have removed the figure. The case is about the clinical progression of tacrolimus neurotoxicity and one image is sufficient. We have rewritten the description of the MRI visible lesions (p2) and have amended the legend (MRI Brain T1).

3. A further MRI was performed in 2004, two years later, and the lesions seen in 2002 had disappeared - and we have now added this comment at the end of the case report (p3).

4. I am afraid that speculation about the pathogenesis is beyond the scope of the case report, but we have now included a comment on the views that have been put forward. "Initially it was assumed that the encephalopathy had an ischaemic basis, but more recently the similarity to mitochondrial encephalopathy has been described and investigated [7]." End of Conclusions (p4).

5. The term "progressive" in the Title is exactly the word we wish to use.

Reviewer: Maria Piera Scolari

1. there was no past or family history of neurological disease. We now state this "There was no previous history or family history of neurological disease" (Case report, p2).