Author's response to reviews

Title: Synthetic Fiber from a Teddy Bear Causing Keratitis and Conjunctival Granuloma: Case report

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Author's response to reviews:

To the Chief Editor of BMC ophthalmology,

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We kindly thank for the constructive comments given by the reviewers. Below is a point-by-point response to the concerns made by the reviewers.

The changes are coloured and underlined in the manuscript as advised.

Referee 1 report:

a)"The figures of both 2 cases seemed to be important how to present such an synthetic fiber related granuloma. I suggest it had better include slit lamp microscopic photos and fluorescein photos of both cases. If the space is limited, high power photos can be removed."

Comments:

a)The clinical photos presented are the best available ones.

Referee 2 report:

a)"1. This reaction appear to be a 'pure' foreign body reactions. In view of the first patient had an underlying atopy, any possibility of an immune component to the granuloma formation."

b)"1-Do the authors have any information on the chemical nature of the fibres. This detail me we hard to come but may be worth adding."

c)"2-do they have any information on the colour of the fibres. The reaction may be due to partly due to the dye present in the fibres."

Comments:

a)The ocular surface epithelium not only acts as a physical and mechanical barrier against harmful substances, but also participates actively during allergic inflammatory processes [17]. Patients with asthma might react with a profound
ocular hypersensitivity [18]. Thus the formation of a conjunctival granuloma in case two, the patient with known asthma could have been potentiated by local ocular allergic reactions.

b) Investigation of the teddy bear fur in case one demonstrated that the fur was made of 100% polyethylene (Dacron, Terylene). The azo-dye (Faron Dark Blue, Clariant) applied to the fibers is not restricted by EU and is not known to cause inflammation.

c) See above.

The manuscript has now been corrected according to the reviewers’ comments and we hope that the manuscript is now suitable for publication.

With kind regards,

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