Author's response to reviews

Title: Difference of clinical features in childhood Mycoplasma pneumoniae pneumonia

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr Norton

We are pleased to enclose this manuscript for consideration for publication in *BMC Pediatrics* in the section ‘Research article’.

We report data from a large consecutive series of 191 patients that highlights clinically relevant characteristics of *Mycoplasma pneumonia* pneumonia (MP) in children. In this study, we report for the first time that clinical features including pneumonia pattern and laboratory findings in MP differ according to patient age, and the severity of MP is associated with lymphocyte count and sero-negativity of diagnostic IgM antibodies at presentation of patients. As there is no IgM response in large number of patients with MP in the early stage of MP, our methodology (2 serologic tests and 2-time examinations during hospitalization) may be the important clue for early and definitive diagnosis of the disease. This is of considerable clinical importance, as MP has been reported in 10–40% of community-acquired pneumonia and some MP patients do not respond to antibiotics, including macrolides. Thus, the data described in this study, which is readily available to treating clinicians, may be useful in guiding appropriate management and differential diagnosis for other pneumonias.

All authors have read and approved submission of the final version of the manuscript. The data have not been previously published and is not being considered for publication elsewhere. We declare that no authors have any conflict of interest.

We do not suggest the reviewers. We thank your consideration for our article and look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Professor Kyung-Yil Lee, MD, on behalf of the authors
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