Author's response to reviews

Title: Subcutaneous implant with etonogestrel (Implanon(R)) for catamenial exacerbations in a patient with cystic fibrosis: a case report

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Enclosed you will find the manuscript entitled “Use of a subcutaneous implant with etonogestrel (Implanon®) for catamenial exacerbations in a patient with cystic fibrosis” to be considered for publication as a case report in BMC Pulmonary Medicine. All authors agree to submit this article for publication in this journal, they have seen and approved the manuscript and have contributed significantly to the work. The content is original and has not been published before and is not being considered for publication in elsewhere.

The estrogens are involved in mucus secretion, lungs development, expression of inflammation factors, increase the possibility of acquisition of Pseudomonas aeruginosa and it conversion to mucoid phenotype, increasing the activity of sodium channel and Na⁺-K⁺-ATPase, decrease the chloride secretion mediated by calcium channel and modified the activity of the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator. All these actions modified the mucociliary clearance of the airway surface liquid of the epithelium and may explain the less survival in women. Our case report makes clear the important role of the female hormones in the development of pulmonary exacerbations and in the decline of lung function in women. The potential treatment with oral contraceptive pills or subcutaneous implants could be an efficacy therapy for these cases.

I kindly suggest as potential peer reviewers two experts in this matter:

1. Catherine M. Greene: Respiratory Research Division, Department of Medicine, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Education and Research Centre, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin 9, Ireland; E-Mail: cmgreene@rcsi.ie.
2. Sanjay H. Chotirmall: Respiratory Research Division, Department of Medicine, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Education and Research Centre, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin 9, Ireland; E-Mail: schotirmall@rcsi.ie.
We think the message of this case report is appropriate and useful for BMC Pulmonary Medicine readers, particularly those working in the clinic with female patients with cystic fibrosis.

Note: I numbered the lines and pages as I was suggested by the Journal.

Yours sincerely,

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