Author's response to reviews

Title: Investigation of idiopathic versus connective tissue disease associated nonspecific Interstitial Pneumonia

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

We are submitting our manuscript entitled “Investigation of idiopathic versus connective tissue disease associated Nonspecific Interstitial Pneumonia” for concise reports in BMJ Pulmonary Medicine.

The histopathologic pattern of nonspecific interstitial pneumonia (NSIP) has been found in a wide variety of clinical and radiological contexts. NSIP has been identified as the most common histopathologic pattern found in patients with connective tissue disease according to established American College of Rheumatology criteria.

We hypothesized that the clinical entity idiopathic NSIP was an autoimmune disease and that it maybe the lung manifestation of connective tissue disease (CTD). For this aim, we studied these patients’ clinical manifestations and lung histopathologic manifestations and compared patients with connective tissue disease associated (CTD-NSIP) to those with idiopathic NSIP.

Our data showed CTD-NSIP patients could not be distinguished from those with idiopathic NSIP according to the pulmonary manifestations at the time of surgical lung biopsy. Typical clinical manifestations of CTD developed in some cases in idiopathic NSIP group after follow up. Prolonged follow up is recommended because
idiopathic NSIP maybe the first manifestation of an underlying systemic autoimmune disease.

We would appreciate it if the manuscript could be considered for publication in BMJ Pulmonary Medicine.

None of the material in this paper has been published or is under consideration for publication elsewhere. And all the authors listed have seen the manuscript and approve to submit to your journal. Thank you very much for your attention, and we are looking forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Sincerely,

JuHong Shi, MD

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