Author's response to reviews

Title: Successful Treatment of Novel H1N1 Influenza related Fulminant Myocarditis with Extracorporeal Life Support

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Version: 2 Date: 27 November 2011

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Professor Zamvar,

Thank you very much for the revision of our manuscript. We enjoyed yours and the remarks of the reviewers, which improves our manuscript, and responded them point-by-point. Changes in the manuscript are marked in red color.
Best regards
Aron-Frederik Popov

Reviewer's report
Title: Successful Treatment of Novel H1N1 Influenza related Fulminant Myocarditis with Extracorporeal Life Support
Version: 1 Date: 10 October 2011
Reviewer: Egbert G. ES Schulz
Reviewer's report:
There are nor minor neither major revisions.

Reviewer's report
Title: Successful Treatment of Novel H1N1 Influenza related Fulminant Myocarditis with Extracorporeal Life Support
Version: 1 Date: 18 October 2011
Reviewer: Radovan Vasko
Reviewer's report:
Improvement suggestions:
Authors should have the manuscript read and corrected by a colleague proficient in English before submission.

AW: The language and the grammar is improved
Authors didn’t provide any information about the respiratory status of their patient. What was the indication for ECMO as a primary choice of mechanical circulatory support in this patient with myocarditis?

AW: The air entry was good and there were no added sounds on auscultation. Added and highlighted in the case report section.

Author could provide information about the neurological outcome of this young female after the prolonged episode of hypotension and CPR.

AW: Patient was found intact neurologically from the 4th day of ECMO insertion but kept sedated electively till ECMO was out. Added and highlighted in the case report section.
There is a lot of published data about ECMO support in critically ill patients with H1N1 associated cardio-respiratory failure, however only limited data are available in population of ADULT patients with primary cardiac failure. Authors should discuss and explain their primary choice of mechanical circulatory support in this patient, and the possible indications and advantages of such approach in this selected population of patients with influenza-myocarditis associated cardiogenic shock.

AW: In the present case, the patient was arrested and being resuscitated. In such emergent situations it is difficult to move the patient to theatre and open chest for short term LVAD implantation. Peripheral ECMO insertion is easy, can be done with on-going CPR and at the bed side. (2nd paragraph in Discussion)

A subset of pH1N1 patients with FM can deteriorate fast. They should be treated in Intensive Therapy Units and monitored carefully for the declining heart function. If not responding to maximum inotropic support, the option of mechanical circulatory support should not be delayed. Peripherally inserted veno-arterial ECMO is efficient short term circulatory support which can be weaned off with recovery of heart function or can be converted to LVAD if respiratory function is optimum and heart do not recover after 3-4 weeks. (Last paragraph in discussion)

Reviewer’s report

Title: Successful Treatment of Novel H1N1 Influenza related Fulminant Myocarditis with Extracorporeal Life Support

Version: 1 Date: 20 October 2011

Reviewer: Christoph Wiese

Reviewer's report:

No revision needed. Manuscript is fairly written. The discussion covers H1N1 infection, Fulminant myocarditis, and previous attempts to treat it. The language is acceptable and grammar is alright (still needs a revision for grammatical errors). Taken into consideration its message for early intervention, I think the article is valuable and should be considered for publication. Major Compulsory Revisions:

AW: Language editing was done

Reviewer's report

Title: Successful Treatment of Novel H1N1 Influenza related Fulminant Myocarditis with Extracorporeal Life Support
DISCUSSION-Line 6 - Spellings of fulminant need to be corrected
Page 4 - line 9 - ref should be Komai et al
line 9 - patient could not survive

AW: Done

Title: Successful Treatment of Novel H1N1 Influenza related Fulminant Myocarditis with Extracorporeal Life Support

Version: 1 Date: 19 November 2011
Reviewer: Harkant Singh
Reviewer's report
Needs some spelling and grammar.
Line 18 of Page 3 - Spelling of Fulminant
Line 9 of page 4 - should read ".... could not survive" rather than ".... could not be Survived"

AW: Done