Author's response to reviews

Title: Severe hypercalcaemia and lymphoma in an HTLV-1 positive Jamaican woman: case report

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editorial Team,

Re: MS: 1309564178140604
Severe hypercalcaemia and lymphoma in an HTLV-1 positive Jamaican woman: case report
Veronica R Lyell, Elham Khatamzas and Theresa J Allain

Thank you for the comments from your reviewers. I will address their comments in turn.

Referee 1 (Julian W Tang) stated that a further unique aspect in this case would be needed to merit acceptance.

Response:

Hypercalcaemia is indeed a typical feature of ATLL in HTLV-1 positive patients and your reviewer cites case reports demonstrating this.

However, we were able to go beyond these reports and demonstrate raised PTHrP levels at the time of the hypercalcaemia. We also demonstrate a bone scan consistent with the metabolic activity induced by the high PTHrP. In the light of the comments made, we have stressed these points and have also expanded the discussion around PTHrP and the management of the humoral hypercalcaemia of malignancy.

I have highlighted the altered paragraphs in bold type in the uploaded manuscript (VL htlv-1 for JMCR 5.doc).

Referee 2 (Ian Tse) stated that the report was well written and should be accepted directly.

We hope that this amendment will be satisfactory and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Veronica Lyell