Author's response to reviews

Title: Proton pump inhibitor-responsive chronic cough without acid reflux

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Version: 2 Date: 13 April 2007

Author's response to reviews: see over
April 13th, 2007

Dear The Editorial Office, The Journal of Medical Case Reports

We submit a manuscript entitled "Proton pump inhibitor-responsive chronic cough without acid reflux" to your journal. We hope that you will consider it for publication as the case studies in The Journal of Medical Case Reports.

We recently encountered two patients with proton pump inhibitor (PPI)-responsive chronic non-productive cough for whom switching from bronchodilators and glucocorticosteroids to PPI resulted in improvement of cough. The cough returned nearly to pre-administration level a few weeks after discontinuation of PPI. Though gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)-associated cough (cough related to gastric acid reflux) was suspected, 24-h esophageal pH monitoring revealed that the cough rarely involved gastric acid reflux. Following re-initiation of PPI, the cough disappeared again. It is thus likely that the use of efficacy of PPI treatment as a criterion for diagnosis of GERD-associated cough (cough related to gastric acid reflux) misclassifies some patients. The most important finding is that PPI-responsive cough is not simply identical to GERD-associated cough (cough related to gastric acid reflux). These cases show that PPI may improve cough unrelated to gastric acid reflux.

The undersigned author warrants that the report is original, is not under consideration by another journal, and has not been previously published.

Sincerely yours,

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