Author's response to reviews

Title: Glucocorticoid hypersensitivity as a rare but potentially fatal side effect of pediatric asthma treatment: a case report

Authors:

Sylvia Lehmann (drsylvialehmann@web.de)
Hagen Ott (hagen.ott@post.rwth-aachen.de)

Version: 5 Date: 18 March 2008

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

thank you for reviewing our paper on "Glucocorticoid hypersensitivity as a rare but potentially fatal side effect of pediatric asthma treatment: a case report" (Manuscript number: 5817305051753239). We are most grateful for the reviewer’s helpful comments and adapted the manuscript accordingly. In the revised text, all changes are underlined.

Thank you very much in advance for your efforts, and kind regards
Hagen Ott.

Reply to Reviewer 1:

1. “To increase the possibility for colleagues to learn from that report it would be interesting to have more details about in vivo-testing (preparation and concentration of pricktest solutions.”
   - We totally agree with the reviewer that more details are warranted with regard to the solutions employed during skin prick testing. Hence, we added the according information to the revised version of our manuscript (p3/4).

2. “Has the patient received any medication for the acute allergic reaction to PSH?”
   - As stated, with the exception of nasal oxygen supplementation, no specific treatment had to be initiated as symptoms resolved spontaneously within 30 minutes.

3. “As the reaction had a traceable immunologic reaction and consisted of urticaria, nausea and dyspnea it should be termed as anaphylactic reaction, not anaphylactoid reaction.”
   - As proposed, the term “anaphylactoid” has been changed to “anaphylactic” in the revised manuscript (p3/5).
Reply to Reviewer 2:

1. "What additives/excipients are included in the glucocorticoid formulation administered to
the patient? Are there differences regarding additives/excipients between the different
formulations which were well tolerated? Is there a possibility that the additives/excipients
could have played a role in this hypersensitivity reaction?"

- We are particularly thankful for this comment as it allows to clarify that the applied culprit
drug preparation did not contain any additives or excipients according to the information
supplied by the manufacturer (Merck & Co., Inc.) and the German national drug manual
("Rote Liste"). Information on this has been added to the revised manuscript. Additionally, the
other corticosteroid reagents containing a set of additives were well tolerated during oral
provocation testing. Thus, we are confident that additives or other excipients did not play a
role during the reaction observed in our patient.

2. "In 2000, we published 14 cases of immediate hypersensitivity reactions following the
administration of glucocorticosteroids spontaneously reported to the Swiss Drug Monitoring
Center…"

- This helpful information and the according citation were included in the revised manuscript.