Author's response to reviews

Title: Anaesthesia for serial whole-lung lavage in a patient with severe pulmonary alveolar proteinosis

Authors:

Adrian JR Evans (adrian.evans@doctors.net.uk)
James Varley (varley_james@hotmail.com)
Stephen T Webb (stephentwebb@doctors.org.uk)
Andrew A Klein (andrew.klein@papworth.nhs.uk)

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11 August 2008

Dear Sir/Madam

Title: Anaesthesia for serial whole-lung lavage in a patient with severe pulmonary alveolar proteinosis

Response to Reviewer 1:
We are grateful to the reviewer for the chance to clarify the state of the patient following induction of anaesthesia. Oxygen saturation improved during pre-oxygenation and remained stable following induction of anaesthesia. We agree that the use of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation should be considered for the treatment of refractory hypoxia in patients with severe pulmonary alveolar proteinosis. The article has been altered to include this information.

Response to Reviewer 2:
We respect the opinions expressed by the reviewer regarding the value of our case report. However, there is not a substantial evidence base on which to base decisions regarding the management of patients with pulmonary alveolar proteinosis undergoing whole-lung lavage. Available evidence is very limited and ageing. These procedures are hazardous and are not performed commonly. Therefore we believe our description of a safe and relatively uncomplicated anaesthetic technique for this procedure is a valuable addition to the medical literature.

The undersigned:

a) have contributed to the above paper and are familiar with the final draft
b) have no conflict of interest
c) state that the paper has not been published or is for consideration for publication elsewhere;

Written patient consent has been sought and received.

Sincerely

Adrian JR Evans
A James Varley
Stephen T Webb
Andrew A Klein

Email for correspondence: stephentwebb@doctors.org.uk