Author's response to reviews

Title: Prenatal Exposure to Herbal Remedy in a Girl with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Case Report

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Dear Editor,

We enclose the article “Prenatal Exposure to Herbal Remedy in a Girl with Autism Spectrum Disorder: a Case Report” for consideration for publication in the Journal of Medical of Medical Case Reports.

In this paper we present the case of a 3-year-old girl diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum disorder. After developing a careful Pediatric Environmental History to the parents in order to find possible environmental risk factors that could have played a role in the pathology of the patient, we were intrigued by the excessive use of a herbal supplement by the mother during pregnancy. Known for its high levels of alkaloids and other substances, Equinosetum arvense or horsetail is currently contraindicated to pregnant women. Although use of herbal supplements use during pregnancy is relatively common, there is little information on their interaction with fetal neurodevelopment. This case-report serves to illustrate a new possible mechanism of neurodevelopmental toxicity in autism spectrum disorder through a mechanism of vitamin deficiency potentiated by herbal supplement and alcohol exposure.

We proceeded to evaluate the medical literature related to risk factors of autism from databases such as the Developmental And Reproductive Toxicology Database (DART) and Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB). This confirmed the lack of proof that there are environmental risk factors associated with an Autism spectrum disorder. Therefore, we believe it is important to raise awareness of this herbal supplement through the publication of this case report. We hope that this research would be used as reference to similar cases in the future.
We trust this manuscript should be of interest to your readership and look forward to hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you need any further information.

Sincerely,

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