Author's response to reviews

Title: A case report of the effect of the dual endothelin receptor antagonist, bosentan, on untreatable ulcers in a diabetic patient

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Deputy Editor, Journal Medical Case Reports

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MS: 1782225524351901: A case report of the effect of the dual endothelin receptor antagonist, bosentan, on untreatable ulcers in a diabetic patient

Dear Deputy Editor

We thank you again for your consideration of our paper for publication in the Journal of Medical Case Reports.

In response to your questions:

1. The patient is reported as having congestive cardiac failure. I fully appreciate that they have discussed (in their Discussion section) the impossibility of ruling out all other factors that may have led to the ulcer healing, but would they please comment on the degree of peripheral oedema that this gentleman had during the course of his ulceration? I ask as during his hospitalisation his peripheral oedema might have improved and whilst this may not have been the only factor, it may have had a contributory effect?

   In our opinion the congestive heart failure and oedema experienced by our patient did not have any relationship with ulcer development, as they occurred at least 6 weeks after the appearance of the ulcer, nor its subsequent improvement. The patient was hospitalised due to cardiac failure and during hospitalisation the ulcer was studied and treated. We have added an additional sentence to the discussion on page 6.

2. I noticed in the Competing Interest section that the authors have declared none. I also noted the following: Acknowledgments

   "The authors wish to acknowledge medical writing assistance from Elements Communications Ltd (Westerham, United Kingdom), supported by Actelion Pharmaceuticals Ltd (Allschwil, Switzerland)."

   It appears that one of Actelion Pharmaceuticals Ltd.'s products is Tracleer (Bosentan). What is the exact relationship between ALL the authors and this company? A detailed explanation would be greatly appreciated.

   We confirm that we have no financial or non-financial competing interests. We have not received funding in the form of a grant or received fees for the writing of this article. Actelion Spain has paid for medical writing assistance as we wanted the opportunity for our case to be published in an International journal. As non-native English speakers the process is difficult and so we accepted the support of Elements Communications Ltd, funded by Actelion Spain, which we have duly acknowledged as per Good Publications Practice.

Yours sincerely,
Dr Fátima Álvarez Reyes

(on behalf of Dr Christina Luna Gómez and Dr Manuel Brito Suárez)