Author's response to reviews

Title: Acute opioid intoxication in an infant chronically exposed to cocaine and heroin

Authors:

Xavier Joya (jjoya@imim.es)
Bibiana Friguls (bfirguls@imim.es)
Marta Simo (msimo@hsjd.org)
Ester Civit (ecivit@imim.es)
Rafael de la Torre (rtorre@imim.es)
Antonio Palomeque (apalomeque@hsjd.org)
Oriol Vall (ovall@imas.imim.es)
Simona Pichini (simona.pichini@iss.it)
Oscar Garcia-Algar (90458@imas.imim.es)

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Title: Acute opioid intoxication in an infant chronically exposed to cocaine and heroin

Authors: Xavier Joya, Bibiana Fríguls, Marta Simó, Ester Civit, Rafael de la Torre, Antonio Palomeque, Oriol Vall, Simona Pichini, Oscar García-Algar

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Comments:
We have made all the changes suggested:
1. Ethnicity of the patient has been included.
2. A conclusion section has been included.
3. Informed consent wording has been included.
4. Authors contribution section has been included.

Dear Editor:

Through the electronic submission system of the Journal, we have uploaded the original manuscript entitled "HEROIN INTOXICATION IN AN INFANT CHRONICALLY EXPOSED TO COCAINE ", which is submitted to the consideration of the Editorial Board of JMCR for the section Case Reports. Neither the entire paper nor any part of its content has been published previously or is being submitted to another journal.

Usually, acute poisoning due to drugs of abuse in children is only the tip of the iceberg for chronic exposure. The analysis using non-conventional matrices such as hair can provide long term information about exposure to recreational drugs. We report a case of a 1-month-old infant admitted at the Paediatric Emergency Unit presenting with respiratory distress and neurologic abnormalities. An acute opiate poisoning (supposedly by smoke inhalation) was detected by preliminary toxicological screening in urine. However, the results were negative for cocaine, cannabis, amphetamines and derivatives. Subsequently, hair samples from the baby and the parents were collected to evaluate the possible chronic exposure to drugs of abuse by segmental analysis. Opiates and cocaine (and metabolites) were detected in hair samples of the infant and his parents. To our knowledge, this is the first case reported in the literature of an acute postnatal intoxication by heroin in an infant chronically exposed to opioids and cocaine. In the light of these results we recommend to perform a hair analysis to detect exposure to heroin and other drugs of abuse in children from risky environments, which could provide the basis for specific social and health interventions. In our opinion, this novel information is under the scope of the journal and will be of the interest of its readers.

All authors have seen and approved the paper here uploaded.
We appreciate very much your attention to this submission.

Sincerely yours,

Oscar García-Algar
Paediatrics Unit
Hospital Universitari del Mar
Passeig Marítim 25-29
E-08003 Barcelona, Spain
Tel.: +34-93-2483000, fax +34-93-2483245
E-mail: 90458@imas.imim.es

Authors contribution
Xavier Joya, analyzed the patient data, reviewed the literature and was a major contributor in writing the manuscript.
Bibiana Fríguls, analyzed the patient data and was a major contributor in writing the manuscript.
Marta Simó, was the clinician in charge of the child and contributed in writing the manuscript.
Ester Civit, was an important laboratory technician in biomarkers analyses and contributed in writing the manuscript.
Rafael de la Torre, was the laboratory responsible and contributed in writing the manuscript.
Antonio Palomeque, was the other clinician in charge of the child and contributed in writing the manuscript.
Oriol Vall, was the paediatrician responsible for coordination of data and samples flow and contributed in writing the manuscript.
Simona Pichini, was the major expert in laboratory analysis of biomarkers in alternative matrices and contributed in writing the manuscript.
Oscar Garcia-Algar, analyzed patient data, reviewed the literature and the final manuscript, and was the main contributor in writing the manuscript.

All authors have seen and approved the final manuscript.