Author’s response to reviews

Title: Tracheo-brachioephalic artery fistula after tracheostomy associated with thoracic deformity: a case report

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Point-by-point responses.

To the Deputy Editor and Referee 1’s comments;

1. There is a large recent literature, at least the last two years, that should be mentioned at the paper.

Answer: We discussed this article in the discussion section.

2. Also the way of writing at the discussion section should be changed to a more formal form.

Answer: We changed the discussion section to a more formal format, after which our article was carefully reviewed a second time by an experienced medical editor whose first language is English and who specializes in the editing of papers written by physicians and scientists whose native language is not English.

To referee 2;

1. What type of case report is your manuscript?

Answer: We think it is “an unexpected event in the course of observing or treating a patient”.

To the Deputy Editor;

1. Please do not use abbreviations within the abstract (i.e., "CT" should be spelled out) and the abbreviation "CT" should be defined within the main text.

   Answer: We changed the text according to your comments.

2. Please define the abbreviation "ICU" within the main text.

   Answer: We changed this, too, and made sure to define the abbreviation "ICU" within the main text.

3. Please use square brackets for the references cited within the text (as per JMCR style).

   Answer: We adopted this style.

4. Please have the authors reword the consent section as follows:

   "Written informed consent was obtained from the patient's father for publication of this case report and accompanying images. A copy of the written consent is available for review by the Editor-in-Chief of this journal."

   Answer: We rewrote the consent section according to your advice.

5. For Figure 4, the authors state that it was modified from one of their references (Jones et al.). Was proper permission obtained?

   Answer: We got permission from Annals of Surgery about this. Please see the attached file.

6. Please change the title from "Tracheo-Brachiocephalic Artery Fistula After Tracheostomy Associated With Thoracic Deformity: A Case Report" to:

   "Tracheo-brachiocephalic artery fistula after tracheostomy associated with thoracic deformity: a case report"

   Answer: We made these changes.

7. Please have the authors perform the above recommend revisions and highlight them in red within the newly-revised text.

   Answer: We made these changes as well.

To the Editor-in Chief;
1. Please include the ethnicity of the patient in the abstract.

   Answer: We added the ethnicity of the patient in the abstract.

2. Please remove the dates in the Case Presentation section of the manuscript (March 7, 2010, March 11, April 6) and instead use phrases like, "five days after..., After a month..."

   Answer: We made revisions according to your comments.

3. As the patient is mentally incapacitated, please could you confirm that you have obtained written informed consent from the patient's legal guardian for publication of the case. Your consent statement should be modified accordingly.

   Answer: We changed the consent statement according to your comments.

4. Please restate the competing interests section at the end of the manuscript, before the reference list. If the authors have no competing interests, please state: "The authors declare that they have no competing interests."

   Answer: We have made the appropriate changes.

5. Please include the authors contribution section. We suggest the following kind of format (please use initials to refer to each author's contribution): FC analyzed and interpreted the patient data regarding the hematological disease and the transplant. RH performed the histological examination of the kidney, and was a major contributor in writing the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

   Answer: We changed the authors' contribution section.

6. Please remove the consent form uploaded as an additional file as this may lead to identifying the patient.

   Answer: We removed the consent form.