Author's response to reviews

Title: A child presenting with vocal cord palsy after vincristine treatment and inefficacy of glutamic acid in prevention of relapse: a case report

Authors:

Piero Farruggia (pfarruggia@libero.it)
Serena Tropia (tropiaserena@yahoo.it)
Sonia Cannella (soniacannella@tiscali.it)
Giuseppa Bruno (giuseppa_bruno@hotmail.it)
Gaspare Oddo (oddo.gaspare@tiscali.it)
Paolo D'Angelo (papagisa@libero.it)

Version: 2 Date: 2 February 2012

Dear Prof. Kidd,

enclosed please find the revised file of the paper 1801920413644128. We have highlighted all changes in yellow. A point-by-point response to the concerns is hereinafter discussed:

1. We have highlighted, as suggested by Prof. Amin Gohary, that a nerve conduction study of the larynx was not performed because the association of vincristine administration with significant respiratory symptoms and immobility of the vocal folds - clearly evidenced by the fiber optic endoscope – allowed a definite diagnosis.

2. We provided, as suggested by Prof. Mohamed Fahmy, a photograph (figure 1) showing the vocal cord palsy of the girl.

In addition we have made the following formatting changes:

1. We have changed the title in “A child presenting with vocal cord palsy after vincristine treatment and inefficacy of glutamic acid in prevention of relapse: a case report.”

2. We have restated the Authors contribution section in a new kind of format: PF made substantial contributions to the structure of the manuscript, was involved in clinical management of the patient, and drafted the manuscript. ST was involved in clinical management and helped to draft the manuscript. SC and GB analyzed and interpreted the patient data regarding the disease. GO was involved in pharmaceutical management of the disease, and participated in drafting part of the manuscript. PD made substantial contributions to the structure of the manuscript, was involved in clinical management of the patient, and was a major contributor in writing the manuscript. All Authors read and approved the final manuscript.

3. The Abstract now starts on page 2 of the paper and has three sections with headings.
Introduction: Vincristine is an antineoplastic drug with a well-known efficacy in the treatment of acute lymphoblastic leukemia and many solid tumors. No more than twenty pediatric patients with vincristine-induced vocal cord palsy have been reported and this is the first case where glutamic acid was administered with the aim of preventing a relapse of laryngeal dysfunction.

Case presentation: The larynx paralysis presented with hoarseness and stridor in a Caucasian 18-month-old girl and spontaneously resolved in about a month. In order to administer a subsequent full dose of vincristine the child received oral glutamic acid whose efficacy against vincristine neurological side effects has been reported.

Conclusion: Since in our patient the amino acid proved to be ineffective in the prevention of the laryngeal paralysis relapse, we suggest that a dose reduction of vincristine should be preferred by oncologists as an initial approach after a case of drug induced vocal cord palsy.

4. We have replaced the header “Case report” with “Case presentation”.

5. We have supplied more demographic information and ethnic details (A Caucasian 18-month-old girl, born in an Italian family and raised in Italy).

Best regards
Piero Farruggia