Author's response to reviews

Title: A 26 year old female presenting with HELLP syndrome in Cystic Fibrosis: a case report

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A 26 year old female presenting with HELLP syndrome in Cystic Fibrosis: a case report

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REVISED MANUSCRIPT – COVER LETTER

1. All of the authors are native English speakers and feel the language is of sufficient quality for publication within a scientific journal. David Reid has numerous publications within the field of cystic fibrosis and bronchiectasis.

2. The title has been reformatted as suggested

3. The ethnicity of the patient has been included as suggested.

4. The manuscript has been modified to acknowledge the previous publication of a case report of HELLP syndrome in a patient with cystic fibrosis.

5. Home blood pressure monitoring was not available to the patient. However, close clinical follow up was arranged.

6. The concerns regarding the patient’s first pregnancy have been addressed in the revised manuscript.

7. Neonatal APGAR scores have been included. Base excess and arterial pH level were unavailable on review of the patient’s admission documentation.

8. HELLP specific treatments have been addressed within the modified manuscript.

9. The risk factors questioned within the peer review did not pertain to HELLP syndrome. Rather they were risk factors for pre-eclampsia, as stated in the original manuscript. There have been a number of reports linking a longer duration of unprotected sexual exposure to lower rates of pre-eclampsia. Examples are: Verwoerd GR, Hall DR, Grové D, Maritz JS, Odendaal HJ. Primipaternity and duration of exposure to sperm antigens as risk factors for pre-eclampsia. Int J Gynaecol Obstet, 2002 Aug;78(2):121-6; Kho EM, McCowan LM, North RA, Roberts CT, Chan E, Black MA, Taylor RS, Dekker GA; SCOPE Consortium. Duration of sexual relationship and its effect on preeclampsia and small for gestational age perinatal outcome. J Reprod Immunol, 2009 Oct;82(1):66-73. Epub 2009 Aug 12. Nonetheless it is acknowledged that this association has not been universally demonstrated to exist. The acknowledged risk factors as set
out within the peer review are in fact risk factors for pre-eclampsia, not the HELLP syndrome. (As stated in
the peer review.) The reference cited within the peer review lists a different set of risk factors specifically
for the HELLP syndrome, and these have been included in the revised manuscript.

10. The discussion has been modified according to the suggestions within the peer review.

11. The appropriate amendments have been made in keeping with the suggestions contained within the peer
review.

12. Legion. From the Oxford Dictionary: Adjective. Great in number. e.g. Her fans are legion.