Author's response to reviews

Title: Satisfactory improvement in a case of sarcoidosis with clarithromycin (CAM) administration: possibility of apoptosis-inducing effect of CAM on sarcoid granulomas

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This paper describes a case of sarcoidosis, in which a drastic improvement was achieved by clarithromycin (CAM) administration. It includes very important information in respect of clinical and pathological points of view. The authors emphasize the following points described below.

1) This is the first case report of sarcoidosis in which a drastic improvement was achieved by a single clarithromycin (CAM) administration. There is no report documenting its drastic effectiveness for sarcoidosis in the literature.

2) Recently, CAM has been found to have immunomodulatory or immunosuppressive effects and has been applied in various clinical fields including the treatment of multiple myeloma and lung cancer. In 2012, we first reported a case of Hodgkin-like lymphoma in which complete remission was achieved by CAM administration. Thus far, many clinicians and investigators have used CAM in their treatment without knowing the precise mechanism of its action. They are really willing to know the mechanism. In this study, we discovered that CAM has an apoptosis-inducing effect by detailed pathological analysis of a biopsied lymph node. There is no document demonstrating an apoptosis-inducing effect of CAM in clinical and pathologic fields. Thus, this paper is the first document demonstrating an apoptotic effect of CAM.

3) In the process of pathological analysis of the biopsied lymph node, authors found that immunoglobulins were incorporated in Langhans giant cells. The incorporation may reflect the degree of degeneration of the giant cells. This finding is also the first document, though the exact mechanism and its significance remain uncertain.

4) Finally, we emphasize that this is an original case report, and it will have a broad impact across more than one area of medicine.

Please let me know of your decision at your earliest convenience.

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