Reviewer’s report

Title: Mesenteric inflammatory veno-occlusive disease occurring during the course of ulcerative colitis: A case report.

Version: 1 Date: 13 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Heyson Chan

Reviewer's report:

Yamada and colleagues reported a rare case of mesenteric inflammatory veno-occlusive disease (MIVOD) in the setting of ulcerative colitis (UC). This raised the awareness of this as a differential diagnosis of patients with suspected UC flare.

While this case report carries some credit, there are a number of issues that the authors have to revise before this paper is suitable for consideration for publication. One major crucial flaw of this case report is that some of the references they quoted were not able to support their respective quoted statements. Other issues are stated as follow:

Introduction:

- Please quote the references to support the statements "MIVOD is mostly resistant to medical treatment, as anticoagulants and immunoregulatory drugs have proven ineffective for patients with MIVOD" and "In most cases, surgical resection of the involved bowel is required and prognosis is typically excellent"

Case presentation:

- There is inconsistency in the age of the patient in the abstract and the case presentation. Does the authors mean that the patient was 29 years old when he first presented in the case presentation section? The authors should consider specifying that this sentence refer to the initial presentation 3 years ago rather than this episode.

- It was stated that the patient was diagnosed with moderate UC and his symptoms was "relatively" controlled with oral 5ASA, did the patient achieved clinical remission or still having clinical symptoms before the flare? Was there any endoscopic assessment?

- Consider a new paragraph to describe the flare at age 32

- Consider elaborating the symptoms experienced by the patient during the possible flare. Was there any PR bleeding? Did the patient fit the definition of severe flare by Truelove criteria?
In the sentence, "Basal plasmacytosis and eosinophil infiltration were unremarkable and there was no typical "owl eye" inclusion indicating CMV infection (Fig.3a)." Do the authors mean Fig 3b instead?

- What was done to exclude other possible differential diagnosis e.g. Buerger's disease, Behçet's disease, rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus?

- Please include the latest medication of the patient after surgery.

Discussion:

- It was mentioned that CMV was excluded at the presentation. However, in the post-operative period, the patient was complicated with CMV infection. How was the post-operative CMV infection diagnosed and how was it being treated?

- It was quoted that "Previous reports indicate three cases of suspected MIVOD with UC. All of these cases had left-side colonic lesions and failed to respond to the appropriate treatment for UC, leading to required colectomy one to two weeks after the initial treatment" with reference 11 and 14. In the two cases of reference 11, the first patient was actually initially thought to be UC but was diagnosed with protein S deficiency - so this patient is actually NOT having ulcerative colitis. The second patient was actually having Clostridium difficile infection and was never diagnosed UC. The authors may wish to go over the paper in detail and clarify if the statement can be supported by the reference they have quoted. The case presented in reference 14 also appeared not to be related to UC - please check.

- This case of MIVOD occurred in the course of UC and MIVOD was confirmed at day 35 of UC flare by the histological specimen from the colectomy. The patient did not have any imaging evidence of MIVOD at the initial presentation of the suspected flare up of UC. With the 35-day delay in the diagnosis of MIVOD and the initial imaging, it is hard to conclude whether the imaging failed to pick up the MIVOD or whether MIVOD occurred as a consequence of the hypercoagulable status from UC flare. The author should address this in their discussion.

Overall:

- The authors may wish to add a timeline to illustrate the event sequence

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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Needs some language corrections before being published

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