Author's response to reviews

Title: Transient spurious intrathecal immunoglobulin synthesis in neurological patients after therapeutic apheresis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Ref.: Submission of our manuscript entitled “Transient spurious intrathecal immunoglobulin synthesis in neurological patients after therapeutic apheresis” for publication in the *BMC Neurology*

Dear PhD Timothy W Shipley,

we would like to submit our manuscript entitled “Transient spurious intrathecal immunoglobulin synthesis in neurological patients after therapeutic apheresis” for publication in *BMC Neurology*.

In this retrospective study we report on “spurious quantitative intrathecal immunoglobulin (Ig) synthesis” transiently occurring in neurological patients treated with either plasmapheresis or immunoadsorption. Fifty-three patients who had a lumbar puncture after therapeutic apheresis were included. If LP was performed one day after therapeutic apheresis “spurious quantitative intrathecal Ig synthesis” of all subclasses was found in 68.4% of the patients. Since “spurious quantitative intrathecal Ig synthesis” and increased IgG index are common findings shortly after plasmapheresis or immunoadsorption due to altered serum immunoglobulin levels, knowledge of this phenomenon is mandatory for clinicians to prevent false interpretations leading to unnecessary diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. Misdiagnosis can be avoided by considering the characteristic constellation of CSF results associated with therapeutic apheresis and the temporal relation to these interventions.

No work resembling the enclosed article has been published or is being submitted for publication elsewhere. All authors have made a substantial contribution so as to qualify for authorship. B. Berger and T. Hottenrott are equally responsible for correspondence and proofs and take full responsibility for all data and their interpretation. Both authors have full access to complete data, and the right to publish any and all data. B. Berger and T. Hottenrott and all co-authors disclose all financial interests and commercial considerations.

We hope that this article is considered for publication.

Yours sincerely,

Benjamin Berger, Tilman Hottenrott, Jonas Leubner, Rick Dersch, Sebastian Rauer, Oliver Stich, and Harald Pruess

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