Author’s response to reviews

Title: Changes of choroidal structure after treatment for primary intraocular lymphoma: retrospective, observational case series

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Author’s response to reviews:

September 18, 2015
Dr. Marina Mesquida,
Associate Editor,
BMC Ophthalmology


Dear Dr. Mesquida,

Thank you for your letter of September 6, 2015 and for sending us the referee’s comments on our manuscript. We are returning the manuscript revised according to the comments.

We have studied the comments carefully and have made corrections which we hope meet with your approval. In the revised manuscript, all changes have been highlighted in yellow. Each of the coauthors has seen and agrees with each of the changes made to this manuscript in the revision.
Remarks: The results of the StatView software and the SPSS software can be seen in the attached file of cover letter.

Reply to Reviewer #1 (Dr. Kalpana Babu Murthy)

Thank you for your helpful comments and your interest to our manuscript. The following revisions have been made according to your comments.

Comments: This is an interesting case report with new findings. The authors need to indicate what is the luminal area, interstitial area in the photograph.

Reply: Thank you for your favorable comments. Based upon this comment, asterisks indicating the luminal area and daggers indicating the interstitial area have been added in Figures 2A, 2D. The sentence “The luminal area (dark area) and the interstitial area (light area) can be seen.” has been changed to “The luminal area (dark area, asterisks) and the interstitial area (light area, daggers) can be seen.” in the figure legend for Figure 2.

Comments: A brief description on how the statistical software delineates the above will be helpful to the reader.

Reply: According to this comment, the sentence “All analyses were done with the SPSS version 22.0 (IBM Japan, Ltd., Japan) and the StatView software (Abacus; Abacus Concepts, Inc., Berkeley, California, USA).” has been added in the Methods section (Lines 151-153).

Comments: The manuscript would have carried more weight if it was compared to age matched controls and refractive errors.

Reply: Based upon this comment, 15 eyes of 15 normal individuals controlled by age and refractive error were also examined by EDI-OCT, and the following sentences have been added in the manuscript.

1) “In addition, 15 eyes of 15 normal individuals controlled by age and refractive error were examined by EDI-OCT.” (Abstract, Lines 33-34)

2) “Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare the parameters in the eyes with pretreatment PIOL and normal control eyes.” (Abstract, Lines 40-41)

3) “The interstitial area and choroidal thickness were significantly increased in the eyes with pretreatment PIOL compared with the normal control eyes (P = 0.0207, P = 0.0495, respectively), while the luminal area was not significantly different (P = 0.2752).” (Abstract, Lines 46-49)

4) “In addition, 15 eyes of 15 normal individuals controlled by age and refractive error were examined by EDI-OCT.” (Lines 96-97)
5) “Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare the parameters in the 5 eyes with pretreatment PIOL and normal control eyes.” (Lines 149-151)

6) “There was no significant difference in the mean age and refractive error between the patients and controls (P = 0.8958, P = 0.9652, respectively). The interstitial area and choroidal thickness were significantly increased in the 5 eyes with pretreatment PIOL (0.1240 ± 0.0200 mm², 215.6 ± 38.1 μm, respectively) compared with the normal control eyes (0.1006 ± 0.0157 mm², P = 0.0207; 174.4 ± 45.1 μm, P = 0.0495; respectively), while the luminal area was not significantly different (P = 0.2752).” (Lines 171-176)

7) “The interstitial area and choroidal thickness were significantly increased in the eyes with pretreatment PIOL compared with the normal control eyes.” (Lines 187-189)

8) “The interstitial area and choroidal thickness were significantly increased in the eyes with pretreatment PIOL compared with the normal control eyes, while the luminal area was not significantly different.” (Lines 258-260)

Reply to Reviewer #2 (Dr. Shinataro Horie)

Thank you for your helpful comments and your interest to our manuscript. The following revisions have been made according to your comments.

Comments: This manuscript reports interesting EDI-OCT findings in PIOL before and after treatment. Authors analyzed not only structural changes of whole choroid but also its components i.e. interstitial area, luminal area.

Reply: Thank you for your favorable comments.

Comments:

Major problem

From table 2, the differences of each set of data don't look large before and after IVMTX. Authors should describe statistical methods more in detail i.e. used software etc. From manuscript, Wilcoxon signed rank test was adopted. I think it is reasonable to use this method. However, using Prism6 software which I always use, the analyzed result by myself are P=0.0625 in choroidal thickness, P=0.0625 in interstitial area, P>0.999 in luminal area. The included pairs of data are 1) case 1-OD, 2) case1-OS, 3) case 2-OD, 4) case 3-OS and 5) case4-OS. Please show more detail information or results of your statistical evaluation.

Reply: We performed Wilcoxon signed rank test using the StatView software. In reply to this comments, we have re-analyzed using the other statistical software, the SPSS version 22.0, and confirmed that our statistical results were correct using these statistical softwares. The results of the StatView software and the SPSS software can be seen in the attached file of cover letter.
In the previous manuscript, the interstitial and luminal areas were displayed to four places of decimals in the Table 2, although we calculated the interstitial and luminal areas to seven places of decimals for statistical analyses. This may be responsible for the discrepancy. Therefore, the interstitial and luminal areas have been changed to be displayed to seven places of decimals in the Table 2 of the revised manuscript.

Based upon the comment, the sentence “All analyses were done with the SPSS version 22.0 (IBM Japan, Ltd., Japan) and the StatView software (Abacus; Abacus Concepts, Inc., Berkeley, California, USA).” has been added in the Methods section (Lines 151-153).

Editorial Requests

Consent:

If individual clinical data is presented in your article, then you must clarify whether consent for publication of these data was obtained.

Reply: According to this request, the sentence “The patients have provided permission to publish clinical data of their case in this study.” has been added in the Methods section (Lines 101-102).

This manuscript has been edited by a native-English speaker with scientific expertise. We have used a professional language editing service “Edanz”.

We thank you and the referees for suggesting how best to improve our papers. Thank you again for your interest to our manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

Yoshinori Mitamura MD PhD