Reviewer’s report

Title: Clinical manifestations and anti-TNF alpha therapy of juvenile Behçet’s disease in Taiwan

Version: 0 Date: 29 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Ezgi Deniz Batu

Reviewer's report:

This is a retrospective study in which the authors have reported the general characteristics of patients with juvenile BD from a single center. Although the number of the patients is limited, this may be an important study since the authors reported their experience with anti-TNF agents in juvenile BD. However, major efforts are needed to improve the text.

Major points:

Anti-TNF use in treatment of juvenile BD is reported in only case series and reports. Thus, the authors could perform a systematic review of the literature and present their own results along with the results from the literature. The results from the literature could be presented in a table for easy reference (their own results could be included in the table as the last line). This will improve this study substantially and provide a nice overview of the subject, as well.

One of the major flaws of this study is the lack of structured outcome scores for evaluating the effect of anti-TNF treatment. The authors should use IBBDAM or BDCAF scores to report the objective outcomes of the treatment.

The authors compared the juvenile BD patients who received anti-TNF treatment with the ones that did not receive anti-TNF, and they concluded that patients with younger at disease onset, higher CRP at baseline, and gastrointestinal symptoms at presentation tended to have more severe disease course. This is not reflecting the real situation here. Receiving anti-TNF agents does not mean having a more severe disease in every case. To make such conclusion, the patients should be grouped according to the disease severity which could be achieved by using structured scores.

Discussion is disorganized. It should be revised: It could start with a brief summary (1-2 sentences) of the salient results of this study. Then these results could be discussed with the results of previous studies in a neat order. The unnecessary parts should be deleted (such as parts about the comparison of juvenile and adult BD which is not the focus of this article).
Minor points to consider:

In the background part, the authors should provide reference to the sentence about the frequency of juvenile BD.

In the methods, the authors indicated that they involved several patients as with possible JBD if they did not satisfy the ICBD or PEDBD criteria but they had oral aphthosis and/or genital aphthosis. Here, they should change "and/or" to "or" since patients with oral AND genital aphthosis are classified as having BD according to the ICBD.

The normality tests and the expression type of numerical variables (as median and range) should be indicated in the statistical methods.

The patients are defined as having juvenile or pediatric BD, if both disease onset and disease diagnosis are before or at 16 years of age. The authors also wrote that they depended on this definition. However, the maximum range of age at disease onset and diagnosis is 16.8 and 16.9 years, respectively in their results.

The time period when the acute phase reactants were checked should be mentioned clearly (at disease onset? Or at diagnosis?, etc.).

Did the authors have the results for HLAB51 and pathergy test? Or did they not perform these? This should be indicated clearly.

Table headings should be more informative and include the disease name (e.g. the heading of Table 2).

**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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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