Reviewer’s report

Title: Phenotypic variability in a child with Felty’s syndrome: a case report

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Reviewer: Violetta Opoka-Winiarska

Reviewer's report:

Phenotypic variability in child with Felty's syndrome: a case report and literature review.

The authors presented an interesting case of Felty syndrome - a rare syndrome in children. They discussed the previous reports and presented therapeutic options.

The work is interesting, but I have some comments.

Abstract

In the definition of neutropenia the value of neutrophil count limit is usually different. An explanation or source should be specified.

The authors wrote that occasional neutropenia occurred, but it was observed after diagnose of Felty syndrome, during rituximab treatment (March 2016, September 2018 - Table 1).

Keywords

Cholestasis is mentioned as a keyword, but not discussed in the text.

Case presentation

The patient's JIA subtype has not been precisely determined. It is advisable to specify according to which criteria JIA was diagnosed.

Peripheral and central lymph nodes were omitted in the patient's description. I suggest supplementing this information.
In table 4 and abstract Sulfasalazine is mentioned in the treatment, but omitted in the text.

Medications such as Methotrexate and TNF inhibitors are important possible causes of bone marrow suppression, thrombocytopenia, and neutropenia in patients with JIA. Worsening of neutropenia after temporary cessation of medications is considered characteristic of Felty syndrome.

EBV or other viral infection can present with thrombocytopenia, neutropenia, and hepatosplenomegaly.

It is advisable to clarify whether these causes have been excluded.

Discussion and conclusion
I suggest checking the table numbers in the text.

Treatment with rituximab has not been adequately described. This is very important in the context of lab test results, the patient's clinical condition as well as having practical significance for the reader.

I suggest adding a detailed description of the patient's current condition.

The conclusions should be re-analysed.

Lack of neutropenia and thrombocytopenia are considered both as an assumption of a Felty syndrome diagnosis in the described patient and the conclusion of the publication.

The authors described the symptoms as common based on 6 cases. I suggest specifying the description.

The authors should add statement about written informed consent of the guardians.
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.

Unable to assess

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?
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Not relevant to this manuscript

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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