Author’s response to reviews

Title: De novo acute lymphoblastic leukemia-like disease of high grade B-cell lymphoma with MYC and BCL2 and/or BCL6 rearrangements: a case report and literature review

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Dr. Cecilia Devoto

BMC Clinical Pathology, Editor

Re: De novo acute lymphoblastic leukemia-like disease of high grade B-cell lymphoma with MYC and BCL2 and/or BCL6 rearrangements: a case report and literature review (CPAT-D-17-00019R3)
Dear Dr. Devoto,

We thank you for suggestive comments on our manuscript. We carefully checked your and the Dr. Chang’s comments and reconstituted the revised manuscript. According to the Dr. Chang’s comments, we excluded TdT-positive cases in the literature review. However, showing blastoid morphology and undetectable surface immunoglobulins in themselves are not regarded to be immature state in B cells (Chan NPH et al. Leuk Res 2003; 27: 231-234; Li S et al. Am J Clin Pathol 2002; 118: 229-234; van Velzen JF et al, J Clin Lab Anal 2014; 28: 493-495; etc.). Therefore, it is difficult to accept all of the Dr. Chang’s comments. Furthermore, the comments #2-to-#4 by Dr. Chang are inconsistent. In this manuscript, we would like to emphasize that the lymphoma-cell morphology is still important in high grade B-cell lymphoma (HGBL). The acute lymphoblastic leukemia-like presentation is critical for the prognosis of HGBL. We wish we could have raised the diagnostic problems of the current WHO classification.

I would appreciate it very much if you could understand our situation. I look forward to receiving your reply and hope that this revised manuscript is appropriate for publishing in “BMC Clinical Pathology”.

Sincerely Yours,

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Response to the reviewer’s comments

Re: De novo acute lymphoblastic leukemia-like disease of high grade B-cell lymphoma with MYC and BCL2 and/or BCL6 rearrangements: a case report and literature review (CPAT-D-17-00019R3)
To Dr. Chang:

Thank you for your suggestive comments. According to your comments, we excluded TdT-positive cases in the literature review and reconstituted the revised manuscript. Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)-like disease is not identical to ALL, but shows the same clinical presentation. We do not regard the term ‘disease’ as inappropriate because this disease belongs to the category ‘high grade B-cell lymphoma’.