Author's response to reviews

Title: Parvovirus B19 infection presenting with severe erythroid aplastic crisis during pregnancy in a woman with autoimmune hemolytic anemia and alpha-thalassemia trait: a case report

Authors:

Chi-Ching Chen (chan0118@msn.com)
Chin-Shan Chen (chinsun42@yahoo.com.tw)
Wei-Yao Wang (wywang1996@ndmctsgh.edu.tw)
Jui-Shan Ma (jma052968@gmail.com)
Hwei-Fan Shu (wendyshu@fyh.mohw.gov.tw)
Frank S Fan (fantast.fan@msa.hinet.net)

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Sir:

We are glad to submit our case report manuscript describing how we rescued a pregnant woman with autoimmune hemolytic anemia from transient aplastic crisis caused by Parvovirus B19 infection and kept her fetus safe. To make it clear to the Editor what our case adds to the field of medicine, we like to explain it in a ‘question and answer’ pattern as following.

a. Do you believe it is the first report of this kind in the literature?

Although Parvovirus B19 infection in hemolytic diseases and pregnancy has been reported in the literature, we believe that this is the first case report in which pregnancy, autoimmune hemolytic anemia, alpha thalassemia trait, Parvovirus B19 infection, and transient aplastic crisis occurred together in the same patient.

b. Will it significantly advance our understanding of a particular disease etiology or drug mechanism?

Although mechanism of Parvovirus B19-related transient aplastic crisis in patients with hemolytic diseases has been reported before, prompt efficacious treatment with intravenous immunoglobulin in a pregnant woman for rescuing erythroid aplasia and prophylaxis of hydrops fetalis was really a rare experience which is clearly demonstrated in our report.

c. Is it an original case report of interest to a particular clinical speciality of medicine or will it have a broader clinical impact across more than one area of medicine?

Our interesting report hopefully will have a broad impact on the fields of infectious disease, hematology, obstetrics and perinatology. Typical hematological pictures and successful experience of intravenous immunoglobulin
treatment surely are of great educational value to clinicians around the world. A beautiful and thorough case report like this probably will be cited in review articles or even textbooks soon.

We have also added a ‘Patient perspective’ part to make our manuscript more complete.

Please don’t let your readers miss it. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Frank S. Fan, M.D., Ph.D.