Author's response to reviews

Title: Primary sclerosing cholangitis associated with CREST in an elderly woman: a case report.

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Reviewers, Journal of Medical Case Reports

Re: Response to concerns

Dear Drs Galati, Villani and Guarascio,

Thank you for your comments on our case report entitled 'Primary sclerosing cholangitis associated with CREST in an elderly woman'.

I have had a chance to consider your suggestions in detail and speak to the co-author of this report as well as a number of hepatologists in my hospital.

I have added a brief discussion of the known association between primary biliary cirrhosis and scleroderma which has been reported since the 1970s. I have also included the patient's liver function test abnormalities.

I have included a new paragraph on differential diagnoses including IgG4-related disease and have made note of the glucocorticoid responsiveness of IgG4 associated cholangitis.

I have amended the patient details to reflect her race rather than nationality. I have provided an explanation in the text of the report as to why a liver biopsy was not pursued but, in brief, this was mainly out of concern for how our elderly patient with multiple comorbidities would tolerate this procedure. Interestingly, her IgG4 level was normal and this information has been included.

Thank you for your comments and your consideration of this article.

Kind regards,

Dr Alice Powell