Reviewer’s report

Title: Enhanced serum immunoglobulin-G clearance in myotonic dystrophy-associated hypogammaglobulinemia: a kindred of two patients and review of the literature

Version: 0 Date: 11 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Mohd Farid Baharin

Reviewer's report:

1. Do you believe the case report is authentic?
   
   (Yes)

2. Do you have any ethical concerns? Please consider if local Institutional Review Board approval or ethical approval was obtained (if appropriate) and if the patient (or their parent or guardian in the case of children under 18) gave written, informed consent to publish this case and any accompanying images. A statement to this effect should appear in the manuscript.

   Comments:

   (I have no ethical concerns)

3. Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature?

   (Yes)

4. Does the article report the following information? Where information is missing, please specify.

   a. The relevant patient information, including:

      - De-identified demographic information (age, gender, ethnicity) (Yes)

      - Main symptoms of the patient (Yes)

      - Medical, family and psychosocial history (Yes)

      - Relevant past interventions and their outcomes (Yes)

   b. The relevant physical examination findings

   (No issue)
c. Important dates and times in this case (if appropriate, organized as a timeline via a figure or table); if specific dates could lead to patient identification, consider including time relevant to initial presentation, i.e. initial presentation at $T = 0$, follow up at $T = 1$ month.

When was the first time patients III-1 detected to have low immunoglobulin levels?

d. Diagnostic assessments, including:

- Diagnostic methods (No issue)

- Challenges (e.g., financial, language/cultural) (No issue)

- Reasoning and prognostic characteristics (e.g., staging), where applicable (No issue)

e. Types and mechanism of intervention (No issue)

f. A summary of the clinical course of all follow-up visits

Comments:

It is unclear when low immunoglobulin levels were detected in both patients.

5. Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?

Comments:

(Yes)

6. Is the anonymity of the patient protected? Please consider any identifying information in images such as facial features or nametags, whether the patient is named etc. If not, please detail below.

Yes

7. Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?

Comments: No issue
8. Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature?
Comments: Yes

9. Additional comments for the author(s)?

It will be helpful to include a table demonstrating the levels of lymphocyte populations of the two patients and expected normal range.

Page 7 line 46: "We did not investigate whether there was associated deficit of B-cell antibody production in vitro, given previous work in this area showed no difference between patients with DM1 and healthy controls". This should not be a justification why the test was not performed, but should be a limitation of this study compared to previous work. Because hypogammaglobulinemia in DM1 is not commonly reported in the literature, replication of immunological tests in different cohort is beneficial this may reveal something different.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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No