

Comment 1: Do not cite references in abstract.

Reply 1: we have modified our text as advised.

Comment 2: Anti-infection is a broad term, use more specific terms like antibiotic, antifungal, or antiviral.

Reply 2: we have modified our text as advised.

Comment 3: Did this patient have a pulmonary inflammatory disorder, severe pulmonary infection or both? How to differentiate this condition?

Reply 3: we consider that this patient have a pulmonary inflammatory disorder with pulmonary infection.

Comment 4: Grammar check required.

Reply 4: we have checked this grammar.

Comment 5: Use specific term.

Reply 5: we have modified our text as advised.

Comment 6: Add information about the patient's initial vital signs including blood pressure before norepinephrine was administered.

Reply 6: we have modified our text as advised.

Comment 7: Each lab result needs interpretation and the normal range should be included in the first appearances.

Reply 7: we have modified our text as advised.

Comment 8: Add findings before interpretation.

Reply 8: we have modified our text as advised.

Comment 9: Explain the inconsistency between bicytopenia (anemia and thrombocytopenia) found in the routine blood tests and the bone marrow aspiration result.

Reply 9: Thank you for your question. We consider that its not inconsistency. It is the infection or inflammation induced anemia and thrombocytopenia.

Comment 10: Diagnostic reasoning including other diagnoses considered and challenges should be considered. An initial diagnosis needed to be added before the final diagnosis was made to understand the author's thought process

Reply 10: we have modified our text as advised.

Comment 11: Use specific term.

Reply 11: we have modified our text as advised.

Comment 12: mNGS found Epstein-Barr virus yet no anti-viral treatment was added,

please elaborate why anti-viral treatment was not considered in this patient's?

Reply 12: Thank you for your question. the number of Epstein-Barr virus was low, thus we did not consider anti-viral treatment.

Comment 13: Do not use the same sentence twice, use a new phrase instead.

Reply 13: we have modified our text as advised.

Comment 14: Whenever possible, please add an explanation of your findings in the case presentation with specific information on its relation with practice or Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) and testable hypothesis.

Reply 14: we have modified our text as advised.

Comment 15: Was the response to glucocorticoid treatment caused by the primary auto-inflammatory condition or secondary to adrenal insufficiency caused by severe/shock septic, please elaborate on this statement. Also, explain why adrenal insufficiency was not considered in this patient's

Reply 15: Thank you for your question. The patient blood pressure has become normal, he was not in a condition of shock. Thus we consider that it was response to glucocorticoid treatment caused by the primary auto-inflammatory condition. Additionally the patient did not have a history of adrenal disease. His plasma cortisol was normal. So we did not consider adrenal insufficiency.

Comment 16: This statement contradicts the patient's lab result where anemia and thrombocytopenia were found. Why this bicytopenia was not considered an MDS sign?

Reply 16: Thank you for your question. The WBC counts is high, it did not support the diagnosis of MDS. More over the bone marrow aspiration result did not support MDS.

Comment 17: Explain why methylprednisolone was used, while Hydrocortisone was well established as an additional treatment in refractory/prolonged septic shock

Reply 17: Thank you for your question. Since the day we consider steroids, the patient was not in refractory/prolonged septic shock. Thus we chose methylprednisolone as pulmonary inflammatory disorder treatment.

Comment 18: This high-dose steroid treatment was called pulse dose and well-known as a first-line treatment in auto-immune disease.

Reply 18: Thank you for your question. We consider that specific treatment in these patients was not well established. It is not merely auto-immune disease.

Comment 19: A better conclusion is needed to address the question in each comment.

Reply 19: we have modified our text as advised.