

June 13,2014

Dear editor,

Please consider a revised version of our manuscript (ESPS Manuscript NO: 10864)

Title: Acute pancreatitis associated with herpes zoster: case report and literature review

Author: Zhen Wang, Jun Ye, Yuehua Han

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 10864

Thank you and the reviewers for the constructive and important suggestions for our manuscript. We have already put more emphasis on the viewpoint.

We hope that our revised manuscript will meet your journal requirement and are looking forward to hearing from you!

Our point by point response is as follows:

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

1) Reviewed by 02520359

Interesting case-report well written. Some English mistakes has to be corrected.

Answer: thank you very much for giving our manuscript high appraisal. We have scanned our manuscript carefully and modified the language mistakes existing in the article.

2) Reviewed by 02527631

In the Abstract section I read: "The diagnosis was confirmed based on abdominal pain, hyperamylasaemia, computed tomography findings of peri-pancreatic exudation and effusions, after excluding more common causes of acute pancreatitis.", I would suggest to consider and to added also the urine amylase parameter. - I would suggest summarizing laboratory findings in a table. - The Discussion section is too long and only descriptive. I would suggest to shortened this section. - Figure 2 and 3 are very nice and representative.

Answer: thank you very much for giving us valuable advices. 1) Both the textbooks and the review article about acute pancreatitis [1] mentioned the urine amylase parameter, so it is a good advice to add urine amylase parameter into the diagnosis. And we indeed found an increase of urine amylase concentration in this patient. 2) We have realized the boring statement of the laboratory finding, and we have made a table to show the result. 3) We have shortened our discussion and paid more attention on the connection between acute pancreatitis and herpes zoster.

3) Reviewed by 02457523

1. The major problem of this manuscript is the lack of a definite relation between

AP and VZV infection. 2. The patient's serum VZV-specific IgM and IgD levels during the disease were interesting. 3. The paper is basically well written, has however still some flaws in the English wording and should thus be revised by a native English speaking colleague / person.

Answer: thank you very much for giving us valuable and pertinent advices. 1) We have noticed there is a lack of strong evidence to explain the cause and effect relationship between herpes zoster and acute pancreatitis. In principle, we can not get the pancreatic tissue to confirm the existence of VZV. So, we have to exclude the common etiology, and finally we focus the clinical history of herpes zoster within 1 week. We decided to change “caused by” to “associated with” in the title. 2) We have scanned our manuscript carefully and modified the language mistakes existing in the article.

4) Reviewed by 02537213

1. There is a lack of a strong evidence to connect the two diseases. There was a five-day interval between the onsets of the two diseases; the herpes zoster had been timely treated and shown a good response; the onset of the pancreatitis was after dining; there is no reasonable explanation about the connection of the two diseases. Did the patient suffer a secondary inflammation following the herpes zoster? Did the “cholecystic polyp” of the patient follow up when the patient recovered? 2. In clinical situation, it should not be a big problem to differentiate the stabbing pain of herpes zoster at the upper chest with the epigastric dull pain of pancreatitis with vomiting.

Other suggestions: 1. Title: It may be more reasonable to change “caused by” to “probably associated with”? 2. Abstract: In the first sentence, “(VZV)c” is confusing. 3. Introduction: The sentence “Viral pancreatitis associated with VZV is a very rare entity and has been reported almost in immunocompromised individuals or children” is confusing. The sentence “this is the first case report of acute pancreatitis caused by VZV viral infection in an immunocompetent adult” is not proper. 4. Case report: The way of list the test results is boring. 5. Discussion: This part didn’t clarify the connection of pancreatitis with herpes zoster, especially in an immunocompetent adult.

Answer: thank you very much for giving us valuable and pertinent advices. 1) We have noticed there is a lack of strong evidence to explain the cause and effect relationship between herpes zoster and acute pancreatitis. In principle, we can not get the pancreatic tissue to confirm the existence of VZV. So, we have to exclude the common etiology, and finally we focus the clinical history of herpes zoster within 1 week. We confirmed with the patient that she did not eat very much and the diet is very ordinary as ever without drinking alcohol. We confirmed that after the onset of herpes zoster, she did not have other secondary inflammation such as influenza, and she still can take the job. We are sorry for the lack of following up of the cholecystic polyp. The patient has regular return visit in our hospital, and we will have a reexamination of the abdominal ultrasound next time. 2) thank you for you suggestion about the change “caused by” to “probably associated with” in the title, and we think it indeed more reasonable. 3) VZV is the abbreviation of varicella zoster virus, which

can cause chicken pox mainly in children and herpes zoster mainly in adult. 4) We have changed the laboratory result into a table to show clearly. 5) We have taken more attention at the discussion part and clarified the connection.

5) Reviewed by 02936396

There are some spelling mistakes in the article. The similar work has been published, the article is too simple and is expected to attract only a very small number of readers.

Answer: thank you very much for your advice. The similar cases are mainly in the immunocompromised patients. We think it is extremely rare in immunocompetent hosts. And we will scan our manuscript carefully and modify the language mistakes existing in the article.

Reference:

[1] Frossard, J.L., M.L. Steer, and C.M. Pastor, *Acute pancreatitis*. *Lancet*, 2008. **371**(9607): p. 143-52.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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