

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

November 24, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: JTK family case reports.doc).

Title: DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF INFECTION BY *MYCOBACTERIUM AVIUM SUBSP. PARATUBERCULOSIS* (HUMAN PARATUBERCULOSIS) IN FAMILY MEMBERS WITH SEVERAL DISEASES OF UNKNOWN ETIOLOGY (INCLUDING CROHN DISEASE AND COMPLEX REGIONAL PAIN SYNDROME)

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 14736

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

1) Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) The following sentence was added on page 20. We believe that the profound long lasting remission in case 1 resulted from anti-MAP therapy and is unlikely due to steroid administration, since such remissions rarely result from steroid administration alone.

(2) The following two sentences were added on page 24. The suboptimal sensitivity and the variation between current serologic assays for MAP make the diagnosis of MAP infection difficult. However, in the presence of otherwise unexplained "autoimmune" disease, the occurrence of positive blood cultures for MAP should be a significant finding.

(3) The following two sentences were added on page 20. Based on these anecdotal reports, open label trials in CD, and controlled trials in MAC infection, we recommend the use of three antibiotics including clarithromycin, rifampin and levofloxacin (at 15, 9 and 7, respectively, mg/kg/day) for at least two years in combination with periodic UVBI (if available). However, until controlled trial data become available, the optimal therapy is unknown.

2) In addition, a conflict-of-interest statement was added to the end of the manuscript and appears below. Kuenstner and Petrie are shareowners of AVIcure Bioscience, LLC which has a proprietary interest in the UVBI therapy described above. Naser has a proprietary interest in a MAP test which has been licensed to Quest Diagnostics Inc. Collins is a co-inventor on a patent for a MAP serologic assay.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Todd Kuenstner, M.D.".

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