

Depletion of innate immunity or bone marrow suppression by viral infection ?

Viral enfeksiyonla kemik iliğinin baskılanması mı, yoksa doğal bağışıklığın tükenmesi mi?

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To the Editor,

I have read with great enthusiasm the paper entitled "Transient depletion of innate immunity in varicella infection in otherwise healthy children", written by Bahadır and colleagues, in the recent issue of the journal [1]. The planning of the research was extraordinary. However, my interpretation of their results would be different, taking into consideration the similar proportional depression in the initial values compared to day 15 for leukocytes, granulocytes, lymphocytes, including NK cell counts, perforin expression, and the platelet counts. With the exception of Fas and sFas-L results, other changes could better be explained by bone marrow suppression with varicella infection because of their similarity.

We also studied hematologic consequences of varicella zoster virus (basically) and mumps infections, including serum iron changes on the initial and 21st days of the diseases [2], though the parameters were not as detailed as in the authors' study. Proportional depression of total lymphocytes, leukocytes and platelet counts was very close to the authors' findings. Because of the serum iron parameter changes, we interpreted our findings with bone marrow suppression.

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References

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2. Cemeroğlu AP, Özsoylu Ş. Haematologic consequences of viral infections, including serum iron status. Eur J Pediatr 1994;153:171-3.

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Author Reply

To the editor,

We are thankful to Dr. Özsoylu for his valuable comments. We performed an immunological work-up in addition to the hematological evaluation in our study group. We have already mentioned the possible myelosuppression by viral infections in the discussion section of our manuscript, similar to that Dr. Özsoylu has cited. We underlined the immunological parameters predominantly throughout the discussion and did not stress the hematological impacts of varicella infection in detail.

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