Osteomyelitis following Bacille Calmette-Guerin vaccination

To the Editor

The clustering of osteomyelitis following Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination in Al-Jassir et al’s study is really interesting. However, I presume that it was not incidental. Interferon gamma receptor 1 (IFN-γR1) deficiency is a primary immunodeficiency with allelic dominant, and recessive mutations characterized clinically by severe infections with mycobacteria. The IFN-γR1 deficiency is nowadays noticed to be more common than initially thought. A peculiar linkage between osteomyelitis following BCG vaccination and IFN-γR1 has been reported. It is well-known that consanguineous marriage prevails in Saudi Arabia with an overall prevalence of 56%, and the first-degree cousins (33.6%) being more common than all other relations (22.4%). Although Al-Jassir et al addressed in their study that the immunological status of the studied patients was thoroughly investigated, and all have shown no greater susceptibility to infection, and no deficiency of immunoglobulin or leukocytes, I still wonder whether suitable genetic studies were accomplished considering IFN-γR1 deficiency. This issue needs to be clearly elucidated.

Mahmood D. Al-Mendalawi  
Department of Pediatrics  
Al-Kindy College of Medicine  
Baghdad University  
Baghdad, Iraq

Reply from the Author

This is good observation, however, the absence of IFN-γR1 deficiency was proven in 2 of our cases. In the third case, we could not determine whether a suitable genetic study was carried out for him, or not. So far, we still believe that BCG osteomyelitis do occur in immune-competent children.

Mohammed M. Zamzam  
Department of Orthopedics (49)  
King Khalid University Hospital  
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

References


Copyright

Whenever a manuscript contains material (tables, figures, etc.) which is protected by copyright (previously published), it is the obligation of the author to obtain written permission from the holder of the copyright (usually the publisher) to reproduce the material in Saudi Medical Journal. This also applies if the material is the authors own work. Please submit copies of the material from the source in which it was first published.