

**COMMENT ON: CYTOMEGALOVIRUS (CMV) HEPATITIS: AN UNCOMMON COMPLICATION OF CMV REACTIVATION IN DRUG REACTION WITH EOSINOPHILIA AND SYSTEMIC SYMPTOMS**

Singapore Med J 2018; 59(5): 289 <https://doi.org/10.11622/smedj.2018059>

Dear Sir,

We read the article by Wong et al<sup>(1)</sup> with great interest. The authors noted that “*While Cytomegalovirus (CMV) reactivation has been described in patients with DRESS syndrome, to our knowledge, histologically confirmed CMV hepatitis has never been described in patients with DRESS syndrome.*”<sup>(1)</sup> CMV reaction has been proven to be an important inducer of drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS).<sup>(2)</sup> Hepatitis due to CMV reaction in DRESS syndrome is believed to be the consequence of an immune response against virus reactivation.<sup>(2)</sup> With the immunological evidence in the present case, it is questionable whether a liver biopsy should have been performed in this patient. It would appear to be an over-investigation, which might do harm to the patient. In addition, Wong et al’s case is not the first to show liver pathology confirming CMV hepatitis in DRESS. A previous report by Arakawa et al has shown that CMV involvement of visceral organs, including the liver, by histopathology study was an important finding in a fatal case of DRESS.<sup>(3)</sup>

Yours sincerely,

Sora Yasri<sup>1</sup>, Viroj Wiwanitkit<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>KMT Primary Care Center, Bangkok, Thailand, <sup>2</sup>Dr DY Patil University, Pune, India. [sorayasri@outlook.co.th](mailto:sorayasri@outlook.co.th)

**REFERENCES**

1. Wong YJ, Choo KJL, Soh JXJ, Tan CK. Cytomegalovirus (CMV) hepatitis: an uncommon complication of CMV reactivation in drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms. Singapore Med J 2018; 59:112-3.
2. Descamps V. [Drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS)]. Rev Prat 2012; 62:1347-52. French.
3. Arakawa M, Kakuto Y, Ichikawa K, et al. Allopurinol hypersensitivity syndrome associated with systemic cytomegalovirus infection and systemic bacteremia. Intern Med 2001; 40:331-5.