Cytomegalovirus Infection and Inflammatory Bowel Disease

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I read with great interest the recently published article by Maher and Nassar [1], which reports important outcomes related to cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). In the study, among 72 patients with active inflammatory bowel disease, 23 were resistant to steroids, and CMV was detected in 8 of the 23. The authors reported the cases as acute CMV infection and explained the absence of CMV IgM as a result of immunosuppression. Previous studies have reported that acute CMV colitis is very rare and most cases of CMV colitis in IBD are caused by reactivation of latent CMV infection [2, 3]. However, there were no CMV IgG data in that study to eliminate previous CMV infection. Also, there are some issues to be clarified in the study. There were no data for other viral serologic findings, for example, Epstein–Barr virus mimicking the symptoms of CMV. Were other bacterial pathogens such as *C. difficile* and *E. histolytica*

checked in the diagnosis algorithm as a common cause of bowel symptoms in IBD? Did all the patients diagnosed as having CMV take gancyclovir and respond well?

References

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