Hypocalcemia, Tetany and Dengue

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Sir,

The recent publication by Kapoor and Singh on hypocalcemic tetany in dengue infection is very interesting [1]. As Kapoor and Singh noted, this is a very rare case. The question is whether hypocalcemia is an actual complication due to dengue or it is caused by some other factors. Of interest, some recent publications show that hypocalcemia was an important finding in dengue shock syndrome. According to a recent publication in Thailand [2], it is concluded that hypocalcemia is a condition to be sought and corrected. However, an interesting notification is hypocalcemia is usually accompanied with other laboratory abnormalities such as hyperamylasemia [3] but not with the presentation of overt tetany.

References

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Authors' Reply

Sir,

We appreciate the interest in our publication as well as bringing to light that symptomatic hypocalcemia is rare in dengue infection [1]. We found symptomatic hypocalcemia in both our cases. An attempt to look for secondary causes of hypocalcaemia (hypoparathyroidism, alkalosis, renal function and drug history) was unrewarding. This may require a larger prospective analysis. Article by Bunnag and Kalayanaroj [2] also suggests that hypocalcemia is known finding in cases of dengue but it does not throw significant light on the etiology and stage of disease progression at which hypocalcemia occurred. We admit that we did not look for serum amylase levels in our cases as there was no clinical clue to it.

References

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