LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reply to Dr. Joob et al.’s letter

Dear Sir,

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to Dr. Joob’s letter with respect to our case report published in JCC.1 While writing the case report our intention was not to mention the side effects of treatment with anti-TNF alpha therapy. We apologize for not having reported in the text all pre-screening examinations for the biological therapy to which the patient was subjected. It is important to note that adverse events can occur in the short and in the long term and that patients older than 65 years treated with TNF inhibitors for inflammatory bowel disease have a high rate of severe infections and mortality compared with younger patients or patients of the same age that did not receive these therapies.2 In our case, the patient presented no absolute contraindication or related to infliximab therapy and showed no adverse event during treatment. We strongly agree with Dr. Joob that in clinical practice we must be able to weigh the usefulness and possible adverse effects of therapy and we are strongly convinced that in this clinical choice the experience and “common sense” are very important.

Conflict of interest

Both authors do not have conflict of interest to declare.

References


Gianluca Andrisani
Alessandro Armuzzi*

Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology Unit, Complesso Integrato Columbus, Catholic University, Rome, Italy

*Corresponding author. Tel.: +39 063503310.
E-mail address: alearmuzzi@yahoo.com.

8 September 2012