Reply to the letter to the editor

David Leibowitz*

Hadassah University Hospital, Mount Scopus Hospital, P.O. Box 24035 Mount Scopus, 91120 Jerusalem, Israel

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The authors would like to thank Dr. Evereklioglu for his thoughtful comments on our manuscript “Echocardiographic manifestations of Adamantiades–Behcet’s disease”. The authors’ contention that the prevalence of this disease is increasing due to migration patterns is based on their own experience in Israel. Almost all of the ABD patients in Israel are of Arab or non-Ashkenazi Jewish descent. It is important to note that the non-Ashkenazic Jewish population in Israel consists mainly of immigrants from countries with a high prevalence of ABD and so an environmental effect is unlikely at least in our patient population. In addition, 22 of 121 non-Ashkenazic Jews with ABD followed in our institution were born in Israel, further emphasizing the genetic nature of the syndrome. The question of the relative contributions of genetics and environment in the pathogenesis of this disease remains an interesting subject for further study.

With regard to the diagnosis of ABD in the patients described, the authors believe that the constellation of signs and symptoms present in all patients including oral and genital ulcers, skin lesions, and other signs of inflammation such as arthritis and vasculitis are sufficient to establish the diagnosis of the disease.2

Lastly, the authors have no “personal feelings” regarding the naming of this disorder; the use of the term “Adamantiades–Behcet’s disease” was suggested by the reviewers and editors and it is to them that Dr. Evereklioglu’s eloquent comments should be directed.

References