



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reply to "A.K. Nersesyan, Cytogenetic biomonitoring in children with chronic tonsillitis: Micronucleus frequency in exfoliated buccal epithelium cells" [Int. J. Pediatr. Otorhinolaryngol., 30 April 2005 (Epub. ahead of print)]

Dear Sir,

We thank Dr. Nersesyan for his comments on our article. First of all, '*p*-value = 0.000' equals to  $p < 0.001$ . This *p*-value was found using SPSS 11.0 program, and was directly put into the table from its output. It is clear that '1' represents the patient group's results, and '2' represents the control group's results. These numeric descriptions are given by the software. It is true that our micronucleus criterion is 'Micronucleus must be less than 1/3 diameter of the main nucleus', and Fig. 2(A) shows a typical micronucleus. In fact, there are no exact criteria for the description of the micronucleus, and it is usually accepted as less than 1/3 diameter of the main nucleus [1]. In Fig. 2(C), the author is right; the 'the right below' arrow must be placed on the left adjacent cell's nucleus. The description of Fig. 2(D) is correct both in the text and the figure legend. The other critic is why we studied three nuclear abnormalities instead of six known. In fact, it is not the case; because we evaluated normal buccal cell nucleus, micronucleus, binucleus, karyorrhexis and karyolysis (five parameters).

We hypothesized that chronic tonsillitis may have potential harmful effects on cellular nuclear component via systemic infection/inflammation and numerous medications that are prescribed for the treatment or prevention of the disease. Our results clearly demonstrated that children with chronic

tonsillitis could be under risk of significant cytogenetic damage [2]. In this stage, the hypothesis was confirmed, and the possible molecular mechanisms that form these nuclear abnormalities, were discussed in the article. However, the exact importance of these findings is unclear and needs further cytogenetic and clinical studies.

## References

- [1] P.E. Tolbert, C.M. Shy, J.W. Allen, Micronuclei and other nuclear abnormalities in buccal smears: methods and development, *Mutat. Res.* 271 (1992) 69–77.
- [2] M. Ünal, A. Çelik, N. Ateş Aras, D. Micozkadioğlu, E. Derici, Y.S. Pata, Y. Akbaş, Cytogenetic biomonitoring in children with chronic tonsillitis: micronucleus frequency in exfoliated buccal epithelium cells, *Int. J. Pediatr. Otorhinolaryngol.* 69 (2005) 1483–1488.

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