

April 15, 2024

Professor Angelo Ravelli, MD,
Professor Tadej Avčin, MD, PhD,
Editors-in-Chief, *Pediatric Rheumatology*

Re: "Increased Vascular Deposition of Oxidized LDL in Untreated Juvenile Dermatomyositis"

Dear Drs. Ravelli and Avčin,

Enclosed is our manuscript entitled "Increased Vascular Deposition of Oxidized LDL in Untreated Juvenile Dermatomyositis" for your consideration. In this study, we present data showing diagnostic muscle biopsies from children with untreated juvenile dermatomyositis (JDM) had increased amounts of oxidized LDL within the blood vessels when compared to healthy controls. This finding supports that patients with JDM are at risk for premature atherosclerosis, suggesting clinical cardiovascular assessments should be performed as children with JDM age into young adulthood. Furthermore, we proposed these data suggest that JDM may be better classified as a vasculitis, rather than a vasculopathy, as macrophages, and other cells, may be triggered by the oxidized LDL found within the vessel walls of these untreated muscle biopsies.

This manuscript has not been submitted for consideration elsewhere, and will not be, while under review with *Pediatric Rheumatology*. All authors have contributed to and approved this final manuscript and declare no conflicts. Additionally, all ethical approvals for this study have been obtained from Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. We look forward to your review and comments. Please do not hesitate to contact us if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,



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