



Reply to Letter to the Editor

Clinical features and outcomes of Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG)-induced diseases following neonatal BCG Tokyo-172 strain immunization



Dear Editor,

We are delighted that our article “Clinical features and outcomes of Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG)-induced diseases following neonatal BCG Tokyo-172 strain immunization [1]” has been of particular interest. In this reply to commentary, we clarify the certain points raised by Dr. Saburo Yamamoto and colleague as follows:

Firstly, the study by Thaveekarn W. et al. found the difference of the genomic profile between the BCG vaccine produced by the Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) and BCG Tokyo-172 strain. Thaveekarn W. et al. employed the BCG vaccine produced by TRCS (Lot No. FB03012) compared with the working seed lots of BCG Tokyo-172 strain used for the BCG vaccine production. The results showed the differences in genomic profiles between BCG vaccine TRCS and BCG Tokyo-172 stain [2,3]. The differences found between these results can be explained by the storage environment, shelf life, preparation process, freeze drying, culture medium or natural mutation of the BCG Tokyo-172. However, the BCG vaccine produced by TRCS is not considered as another strain owing to the fact that the overall *Mycobacterium bovis* genetics in BCG vaccine remains the same as BCG Tokyo-172, including 7RDs in ppsA, VNTR locus, and single nucleotide polymorphism [2].

Secondly, the culture method that has been using to produce BCG is the original method that has been documented by Prof. J. Hashimoto since August 13, 1987. Indeed, this culture method of the parent strain “BCG Tokyo-172” has been performed by potato culture without beef bile. The Thai Red Cross has been utilizing this BCG vaccine production technique from BCG Tokyo-172 as parent strain since 1987.

Lastly, Dr. Yamamoto was right that the Thai Red Cross Society did not use BCG Tokyo-172 since 1953; this is an erratum. The Thai Red Cross Society started producing BCG vaccine by using Danish strain 1331 in 1953, and started using BCG Tokyo-172 as parent strain since 1988.

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Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors have no potential conflicts of interest to disclose.

References

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Rattanachai Rermruay^a

Wichit Thaveekarn^b

Kulkanya Chokephaibulkit^{c,*}

^a Chandrubeksa Hospital, RTAF, Nakhon Pathom 73180, Thailand

^b Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute, Thai Red Cross Society, Bangkok 10330, Thailand

^c Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok 10700, Thailand

* Corresponding author.

E-mail addresses: rattanachai_r@rtaf.mi.th (R. Rermruay),

wichit.t@redcross.or.th (W. Thaveekarn),

kulkanya.cho@mahidol.ac.th (K. Chokephaibulkit)

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