

## Correspondence

### Osteomyelitis following Bacille Calmette-Guerin vaccination

To the Editor

The clustering of osteomyelitis following Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination in Al-Jassir et al's<sup>1</sup> study is really interesting. However, I presume that it was not incidental. Interferon gamma receptor 1 (IFN- $\gamma$ R1) deficiency is a primary immunodeficiency with allelic dominant, and recessive mutations characterized clinically by severe infections with mycobacteria. The IFN- $\gamma$ R1 deficiency is nowadays noticed to be more common than initially thought.<sup>2</sup> A peculiar linkage between osteomyelitis following BCG vaccination and IFN- $\gamma$ R1 has been reported.<sup>3</sup> It is well-known that consanguineous marriage prevails in Saudi Arabia with an overall prevalence of 56%, and the first-degree cousins (33.6%) being more common than all other relations (22.4%).<sup>4</sup> Although Al-Jassir et al<sup>1</sup> addressed in their study that the immunological status of the studied patients was thoroughly investigated, and all have shown no greater susceptibility to infection, and no deficiency of immunoglobulin or leukocytes, I still wonder whether suitable genetic studies were accomplished considering IFN- $\gamma$ R1 deficiency. This issue needs to be clearly elucidated.

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This is good observation, however, the absence of IFN- $\gamma$ R1 deficiency was proven in 2 of our cases. In the third case, we could not determine whether a suitable genetic study was carried out for him, or not. So far, we still believe that BCG osteomyelitis do occur in immune-competent children.

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### References

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