

Correspondence

Multiple myeloma presenting as dysphagia

To the Editor

I read with interest the recent case report by Alherabi et al.¹ However, I found the reported total protein, presumably of serum, of 902 g/L more striking than the dysphagia in their report on multiple myeloma. As a matter of common-sense, one wonders how the blood could maintain its fluidity with such a level of serum proteins. Hyperviscosity is attained by much lower figures of serum proteins; probably 150 g/L (70 g/L for the paraprotein, plus 80 g/L for the total serum proteins) is a high estimate. Hopefully, it might have been a printing error, which, I believe, strongly demands publishing an erratum. If publishing an erratum is concluded, please re-check your figure on annual incidence as to whether this is per 100,000 rather than per 1,000,000.

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Reply from the Author

We thank Dr. Al-Dabbagh for his interest in our paper.¹ The annual incidence of newly diagnosed cases in the United States of America is indeed 3-4 per 100,000 population.² The investigations revealed a total protein of 9.2 g/dl (normal 6.4-8.2 g/dl), which is equivalent to 902 g/L. I totally agree with the comment on how blood could maintain its fluidity with such a level of serum proteins and this extreme hyperviscosity; however, it seems the chronicity of the illness and slow increase of the blood viscosity and his illness allowed the patient to compensate. That also explains the extreme dehydration of the patient. We again, truly appreciate your comment.

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References

1. Alherabi AZ, Khan AM, Marglani DA, Abdulfattah TA. Multiple myeloma presenting as dysphagia. *Saudi Med J* 2013; 34: 648-650.
2. Michalaki VJ, Hall J, Henk JM, Nutting CM, Harrington KJ. Radiotherapy for extramedullary plasmacytomas of the head and neck. *Br J Radiol* 2003; 76: 738-734.

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