

Table 5, but a new trial report³ has added to the already existing uncertainty about the efficacy of feverfew as a prophylactic agent in patients with migraine.

Peter A.G.M. De Smet, Pharm.D., Ph.D.

University Medical Center St. Radboud
6525 GA Nijmegen, the Netherlands
pdesmet@winap.nl

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Tuberculosis and Pott's Disease

TO THE EDITOR: Although the clinical history and images of tuberculosis with Pott's disease presented by Weber and Scherübl (Dec. 5 issue)¹ were instructive, I believe their reference to the Langerhans' cell was incorrect. The characteristic cell of the tuberculous granuloma is the Langhans' giant cell. The Langerhans' giant cell refers to the dendritic antigen-processing cell of the Langerhans' cell granulomatoses, formerly known as eosinophilic granulomas. Students of pathology may find it helpful to recall the "e" in both Langerhans and eosinophilic granuloma.

Vincent J. Vigorita, M.D.

Lutheran Medical Center
Brooklyn, NY 11220
vvigorita@lmcmc.com

1. Weber U, Scherübl H. Tuberculosis with atlantoaxial and craniovertebral Pott's disease. *N Engl J Med* 2002;347:1849.

TO THE EDITOR: Weber and Scherübl present an excellent computed tomographic image of changes in the upper cervical spine in a patient with tuberculosis and Pott's disease. However, we disagree with the authors that the scan shows lateral subluxation of the dens axis as the result of a fracture of the left lateral atlas. Our opinion is that the scan shows lateral subluxation of the atlas; the dens axis is still in the right place above the rest of the body. True lateral subluxation of the dens axis would need a fracture in the dens or other pathologic processes in the axis, which the authors do not mention. Furthermore, lateral subluxation of the dens axis cannot be the result of a fracture in the atlas.

Kari Laiho, M.D.

Markku Kauppi, M.D., Ph.D.

Irma Soini, M.D., Ph.D.

Rheumatism Foundation Hospital
FIN-18120 Heinola, Finland

THE AUTHORS REPLY: We thank Dr. Vigorita for correctly pointing out that our patient had caseating granulomas containing not only acid-fast bacilli but also the characteristic Langhans' giant cells. We agree with Dr. Laiho and colleagues that the dens axis was not fractured. However, the left massa lateralis atlantis was destroyed (Fig. 1). No doubt there was subluxation of both C0–C1 and C1–C2.

Hans Scherübl, M.D.

Ulrich Weber, M.D.

Free University of Berlin
D-12200 Berlin, Germany



Figure 1. Computed Tomographic Scan Showing Destruction of the Left Massa Lateralis Atlantis (Arrows).