

to doxycycline or any of the other medications she received.

Fett, extrapolating from data concerning peripartum and other inflammatory cardiomyopathies, suggests that our patient might have benefited from beta-blockade. Beta-blockers are indicated in patients with compensated, but not decompensated heart failure.<sup>1</sup> Acute necrotizing eosinophilic myocarditis presents with a much greater degree of myocardial injury than is typically seen in peripartum cardiomyopathy. Consistent with this pattern, the patient described in our article required support with a beta-agonist inotrope to maintain adequate cardiac output. A beta-blocker is contraindicated in that setting.<sup>1</sup>

Descamps and colleagues note reports describing the reactivation of HHV-6 and HHV-7 in patients with multiple sclerosis and drug-associated hypersensitivity reactions. However, most people, if not all, are infected with HHV-6 and HHV-7 during childhood.<sup>2</sup> There is no solid evidence that these viruses play a causal role in either of these conditions, and their reactivation could simply be a consequence of immune activation. Therefore, although testing for the reactivation of HHV-6 and HHV-7 in the patient described in our report might be interesting, the significance of any positive findings would be unclear.

Suplatast tosilate is a relatively new medication that has been reported to have inhibitory effects on Th2 cytokine signaling. The medication's mechanism of action is not known, and it has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration.<sup>3</sup> Mir and Khalil cite an intriguing

report from Japan concerning a patient with subacute eosinophilic myocarditis with a preserved ejection fraction in whom the addition of suplatast to a prednisolone taper was associated with a reduction in inflammatory biomarkers.<sup>4</sup> However, suplatast appears to have a relatively delayed effect,<sup>3</sup> and in the cited report the agent was administered approximately 2 months after the diagnosis of myocarditis, with the effects observed 4 months later.<sup>4</sup> It is not known whether suplatast has clinical efficacy in patients with acute necrotizing eosinophilic myocarditis such as the patient described in our report.

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## Review of *African American Bioethics*

**TO THE EDITOR:** In my review of *African American Bioethics: Culture, Race, and Identity*, edited by Lawrence Prograis, Jr., and Edmund D. Pellegrino (Jan. 10 issue),<sup>1</sup> I failed to cite passages from Lynn Smitherman's review of the same book, published in the October 24–31 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*,<sup>2</sup> and to acknowledge my reliance on her review for help in identifying core themes.

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2. Smitherman LC. Review of: *African American Bioethics: Culture, Race, and Identity*. *JAMA* 2007;298:1947-8.