

Reply to comment by Carratù P, et al. on: Hostettler K, et al. Bosentan for patients with steroid-resistant pulmonary sarcoidosis: a randomised controlled trial

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We thank Carratù et al. for their technical comment [1] on our publication about the effect of bosentan in patients with steroid-resistant pulmonary sarcoidosis [2]. The authors have shown previously that endothelin-1 (ET-1) urine levels were significantly higher in patients with active sarcoidosis as compared with healthy controls [3]. Furthermore, urine ET-1 levels decreased after prednisone treatment, which was paralleled by an improved clinical status [3]. Based on this observation the authors suggest measuring urine ET-1 levels before and after bosentan treatment, as this might be a prognostic factor.

The identification of specifically targetable traits in a complex disorder like sarcoidosis is of paramount importance. However, we would like to emphasise that the role of ET-1 urine levels in patients with sarcoidosis has not been elucidated yet and thus it is rather speculative to propose it as a prognostic tool. Neither has it been validated as a predictive tool. Moreover, based on our data [2] and on current

knowledge there is no role for bosentan in the treatment of patients with steroid-resistant pulmonary sarcoidosis and thus the effect of bosentan on urine ET-1 levels in sarcoidosis patients does not seem of priority interest.

Disclosure statement

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References

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