Reply


To the Editor: We wish to thank Drs. Abdullah and Nazer for their interest in our report of Congenital Hepatic Fibrosis (CHF) in a Saudi family.\(^1\)

We apologize for not referring to their report of CHF in Saudi children.\(^2\) This was an inadvertent event as two Medline searches on the subject while preparing for writing our paper did not come up with any reports from Saudi Arabia. We are grateful for their letter as we now realize the searches we did were not entirely reliable, since the journal with Dr. Abdullah et al. paper is indexed.

However, we still believe that our report is valid as it reports on CHF presenting in early adulthood as in the case of our index patient and one of his sisters; the second sister is also an old child, age 12. Those two sisters were not further investigated for the presence of esophageal varices as they were completely asymptomatic and were normal on physical examination and laboratory testing. They are however, still attending follow-up clinics.

The other aim of our report is to stress the importance and ease of family screening by noninvasive and readily available investigation, i.e. ultrasonography.

We do again apologize to Dr. Abdullah et al. for the unintentional omission of their excellent report of CHF among Saudi children that would have complemented our report of the condition in adults.

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References
