



# Comment on “Breast implant-associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma: the first South Korean case”

Il-Kug Kim, Tae Gon Kim

Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Yeungnam University College of Medicine, Daegu, Korea

Dear Editor,

We read the paper, “Breast implant-associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma: the first South Korean case,” with great interest [1]. The authors described a Korean case of breast implant-associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL), including the clinical manifestations and pathologic features. They claimed that it was the first South Korean BIA-ALCL case. However, to our understanding, this is not true. One of the co-authors of the paper, Dr. Eun Key Kim, presented this case at the Breast Reconstruction Symposium held on June 10, 2020, and described the case as “the second BIA-ALCL case in Korea” [2]. The first case of BIA-ALCL in Korea was a 44-year-old female patient diagnosed and treated at Yeungnam University Medical Center in August 2019, and the case was presented on November 9, 2019, at the 77th PRS KOREA, the main academic conference organized by the Korean Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons [3].

The first case of BIA-ALCL in Korea led to several important changes for plastic surgeons. After the first BIA-ALCL case was reported, all hospitals in Korea stopped using textured breast implants and switched to smooth breast implants. Moreover, Korean medical insurance does not cover the treatment for any complications of uninsured cosmetic surgery. BIA-ALCL is regarded as one such complication. Without insurance, the cost of BIA-ALCL treatment is an excessive burden on most patients. Hence, the medical staff and the Korean Society of Plastic Surgeons requested the Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service to cover BIA-ALCL, and it was approved. As such, the

first case of BIA-ALCL in Korea is a meaningful and memorable case for all plastic surgeons.

The case report of the first case of BIA-ALCL in Korea was published online in December 2020 and published in print in April 2021 [4]. Molecular analysis and histopathologic analysis were performed, although these were time-consuming. Meanwhile, the authors published the second case of BIA-ALCL in Korea as the first case. This may be the first published case report but it is not the first identified case [1]. Hence, in our opinion, this should be amended.

### Ethics Statement

Not applicable.

### Availability of Data and Material

Data sharing not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analyzed during the study.

### Code Availability

Not applicable.

### ORCID

Tae Gon Kim <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6738-4630>  
 Il-Kug Kim <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2428-8403>

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### Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no potential conflicts of interest.

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**Corresponding Author:** Tae Gon Kim, MD, PhD  
 Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Yeungnam University College of Medicine, 170 Hyeonchung-ro, Nam-gu, Daegu 42415, Korea  
 Tel: +82-53-620-3480, Fax: +82-53-626-0705, E-mail: kimtg0919@daum.net

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