Giant Cell Arteritis
Presenting as PUO – An Earlier Series

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Sir,

We read with interest, the report by Santhanam and Mani, on a patient with Giant cell arteritis presenting as PUO.¹ Though the authors have referred to four other papers from India on the subject of Giant cell arteritis, they appear to have missed out on our series on the same topic.² It is important to document this because there are few case series on giant cell arteritis from our country and our series was one of the earliest.

Besides, and this is more to the point, four of our nine patients presented with PUO, one for as long as for four months. Even in the series by Singh et al, nine of 21 patients presented with fever.³ Thus, the statement that the authors make, “PUO as a presenting manifestation is very rare and may be found in only 15 % of patients” is erroneous.¹ We emphasised the fact that PUO could be an important symptom in patients with Giant cell arteritis not only in the paper, but even in the abstract by stating “Pyrexia is a common presenting feature of the disease; temporal arteritis should be considered in the differential diagnosis of elderly patients with pyrexia of unknown origin. Thus, our paper should have been detected in a MEDLINE search and should ideally have been quoted as well.

References