Reviewer's report

Title: Acute pericarditis due to alpha-interferon therapy for chronic HCV hepatitis - Case report

Version: 2 Date: 27 January 2011

Reviewer: Curtis L Cooper

Reviewer's report:

Interesting work that is of educational interest to clinicians. The review of the differential for pericarditis is valuable. Editing for grammar throughout is required.

Key Issues:

1) This complication is widely recognized. However, I think that this complete review of the topic is valuable.

2) Need to consider ribavirin on the differential as well as mentioning the other medications that this patient was receiving.

3) A comment on the effect of interferon immune suppression on diagnostic serology results would be useful.

4) Case Presentation, Page 4: Tuberculosis is on the differential. The prevalence of latent TB in the HCV population is actually high. Therefore, the statement 'We had no reason to suspect a tuberculosis etiology...' is inaccurate.

5) Case Presentation, final paragraph of page 4: How many weeks after IFN was interrupted was treatment resumed? Resumption after 2 weeks would likely have been of no value in terms of increasing the likelihood of SVR.

6) Discussion (para 1)- There are other interferons besides alpha and beta (lamda is under investigation)

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I am a clinical investigator, advisor and speaker in the field of HCV. IN this capacity I interact with many pharma companies. I do not believe that I am conflicted.