Reviewer’s report

Title: Chronic calcium pyrophosphate crystal inflammatory arthritis induced by extreme hypomagnesemia in short bowel syndrome

Version: 1 Date: 21 May 2012

Reviewer: Claire Louise Donohoe

Reviewer’s report:

1. General comments: This is a well written and interesting case report. The authors note that although a rare complication of SBS, which is in itself a rare condition, there have been other reports of CPPD associated with hypomagnesaemia. The value of this report is that it uses the case reported to illustrate the principles of investigation and treatment of malabsorption in the setting of SBS. The report explores the multi-factorial aetiology of hypomagnesaemia within the setting of SBS; illustrates in detail the thorough multi-disciplinary assessment of hypomagnesaemia and discusses the multiple interventions required in order to address the arthralgia with which the patient presented.

2. Minor essential revisions
   Page 2, Paragraph 4 Abstract: change colchicum to colchicines
   Page 3, Paragraph 1 Abstract: change rareness to rarity
   Page 4, Paragraph 2: Define BMI
   Page 4, Paragraph 3: Change those to these
   Page 4, Paragraph 3: Change discomforts to discomfort
   Page 5, paragraph 2: First sentence does not make grammatical sense, please re-phrase.
   Page 5, paragraph 2: change vertebrae to vertebrae.
   Page 5, paragraph 3: Delete seeing
   Page 6, paragraph 1: Delete a
   Page 7, paragraph 1: Change columns to principles
   Page 7, paragraph 1: Change “Due to non-steroidal drug intolerance this group...” to “Due to the non-steroidal drug intolerance diagnosed, this group...”
   Page 8, paragraph 1: Change “...while applying above listed..” to “...while applying the above listed..”
   Page 8, paragraph 2: Change “After one year treatment the...” to “After one year of treatment the...”
   Page 8, paragraph 2: Change month to months
3. Discretionary revisions –

A schematic diagram illustrating the pathophysiology of hypomagnesaemia in SBS as detailed in the discussion would be a valuable addition to the paper.

Page 4, paragraph 3: Beware subjective attribution within this descriptive paragraph – a description of the patient’s symptoms would be more informative rather than the statement “slipped into depression and chronic fatigue syndrome”. Did the patient meet DSM criteria for depression? Was he undergoing treatment for depression? How was the reported chronic fatigue syndrome defined? These questions can be avoided by describing the patient’s symptoms.

Page 8, paragraph 2: Is it common psychiatric practice to use anti-depressants in an on-demand schedule?

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests