Reviewer's report

Title: Hyponatremic Hypertensive Syndrome (HHS) in Children Presenting as Malignant Hypertension: Case Report

Version: Date: 29 January 2004

Reviewer: eduardo podjarny

Reviewer's report:

General

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

In the present article, the authors report two cases of high renin hypertension, associated with secondary hyponatremia and hypokalemia. This clinical picture, known as HHS, is known to happen with adults, and hyponatremia is in fact a common finding in patients with malignant hypertension. By contrast, HHS is uncommon in children, with case reports regarding infants being especially scarce. The authors report two cases:

The first, which occurs at an earlier age of eighteen months, is a rare case of a child with RAS due to renal arteries abnormalities, with extremely excessive high levels of PRA and severe hyponatremia. The case is well presented, including diagnosis, treatment and follow-up. It represents an uncommon case of HHS in children and deserves publication.

The second case is different. A seventeen year old girl, presenting malignant high renin hypertension, and mild hyponatremia. After the treatment of the malignant phase, no further studies could have been done, due to lack of cooperation from the patient. This case does not add new data to the literature - the age is almost an adult age, and it is not representative of children. The clinical picture may reflect a typical case of FMD with no original information. In my opinion, this case should be omitted from the article.

Finally, due to the rarity of this syndrome in children, I suggest adding to the article a table summarizing the case reports already published, together with the present one.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
none