Reviewer's report

Title: Progressive multifocal leucoencephalopathy in an immunocompetent patient with favourable outcome. A case report.

Version: 1 Date: 24 December 2009

Reviewer: Christopher Power

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Summary:
This case report describes a unique patient who was diagnosed with progressive multifocal leucoencephalopathy in the absence of obvious immunosuppression. Indeed, the patient was confirmed thoroughly in terms of the diagnosis and interestingly, experienced a deterioration following treatment. More importantly, the patient survived to the time of submission with corresponding radiological improvement.

Critique:
This is an informative case report that illustrates a rare outcome of progressive multifocal leucoencephalopathy. Indeed, the manuscript provides important, albeit rare, insight into PML and is well prepared. The authors are to be commended for their analysis of the JC virus in biopsy and blood. Several suggestions (minor essential) to the authors include:

1) It would be appropriate for the authors to cite the recent New England Journal article showing IRIS in an MS patient who was plasma free after receiving natalizumab, earlier this year.

2) If the authors have any further information regarding CD4 and CD8 subsets on FACS, this would be informative. Likewise, any information regarding innate immunity including NK cell abundance and effector properties would also be very welcome.

3) One oversight on the part of the authors is the absence of quantitative immunoglobulin levels at the time of diagnosis of PML; is it clear to the authors that this patient did not have common variant immunodeficiency syndrome which has been associated with PML in the past?

4) Finally, the manuscript needs some substantial revisions in terms of grammatical corrections, ie. “backgrounds” on page 3 should not have an “s,” “demyelinization” should be “demyelination,” etc.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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: no