Reviewer's report

Title: Acute Hepatic Failure and Multi-System Organ Failure Secondary to Replacement of the Liver with Metastatic Melanoma

Version: 2 Date: 18 February 2005

Reviewer: Krishnamachar Harish

Reviewer's report:

General

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Resection of melanoma _ _ _ _ local anesthetic€.

Please clarify if the lesion was excised under local anesthesia considering it as mole or was it diagnosed as melanoma earlier? Mention clearly that the lesion was excised (considering it as mole) which was later reported as melanoma and that the work up of metastasis was underway when the patient presented with pre-terminal event.

If the diagnosis was melanoma earlier, the metastatic work-up is inadequate as evaluation of liver is part of work up of melanoma of any location. At least an ultrasound study of liver is desirable. (See under discretionary revision for reason)

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------
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)

Liver is a site of high propensity of metastasis for melanoma. Any standard teaching would emphasize this by the example of ocular melanoma metastasizing to liver. The â€˜soil and seedâ€™ hypothesis of Paget including organ preference in metastasis should be specially noted in this context. It would be desirable to review these articles and incorporate the gist in the discussion.


What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests