Reviewer's report

Title: Deferoxamine retinopathy: Spectral domain-optical coherence tomography findings

Version: 3
Date: 25 May 2014

Reviewer: Marta Ugarte

Reviewer’s report:

The authors, in this case report, describe the fundal appearance and features on spectral-domain optical coherence tomography scan of a patient with beta-thalassaemia treated with repeat transfusions and systemic Deferoxamine. This is a very interesting topic, the pathogenesis of which is not fully elucidated.

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

The authors should provide more information supporting their suggestions that the findings on retinal examination and SD-OCT scan are in fact a consequence of systemic treatment with Deferoxamine, rather than the underlying beta-thalassaemia or repeat transfusions (1-7).

Beta-thalassaemia can result in pigmentary retinal changes. Serially transfused thalassemia patients can develop retinal pigment epithelium mottling that correlates with high serum iron and ferritin levels, in the absence of treatment with Deferoxamine. These fundus changes are thought to reflect retinal iron overload.


Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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 of interests.