Reviewers report

Title: Bilateral Neuro-retinitis following Chick Embryo cell anti-rabies vaccination - a case report

Version: 1 Date: 9 June 2005

Reviewer: Simon J Hickman

Reviewers report:

General

This is an interesting case report of bilateral neuroretinitis following chick embryo anti-rabies immunisation, a complication only previously reported following sheep brain vaccine.

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

Background

Need to emphasise that neurological complications are usually seen with sheep brain vaccines although manufacturer's information on their websites does mention the risk of neurological complications with some chick embryo vaccines.

Case presentation

The visual loss was probably acute in onset rather than sudden as that would imply a vascular lesion - please clarify whether the visual loss progressed over a short period.

Tortuous spelt incorrectly

Was Bartonella serology checked? - I know that this is not associated with dog bites but it is the most common identifiable cause of neuroretinitis

Was the brain MRI normal?

Discussion

Need to start with a discussion of neuroretinitis, its causes, treatment and prognosis, then emphasise the association with sheep brain vaccine before going on to describe the relative safety of chick embryo vaccination. The previous neurological complications of chick embryo vaccination can then be commented on and the unique aspects of this case. The potential benefits of recombinant vaccines is to this reviewer's knowledge a philosophical point as I am unaware of any commercially available recombinant rabies vaccines but please correct me if I am wrong.

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

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
**What next?**: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest**: An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**: Acceptable

**Statistical review**: No

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