Reviewer’s report

Title: Immunohistochemical investigations in an uncommon variant of scleromyxoedema: Case report

Version: 1 Date: 15 May 2004

Reviewer: Robert Dawe

Reviewer’s report:

I found this an interesting case report about a patient with a rare condition (which I have never personally diagnosed). It is a useful reminder and update on clinical and investigative features of this condition, and includes reports on the use of two treatments (MTX and UVA1) which have, as far as I am aware, never been reported used in this condition before.

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Major Compulsory Revisions: None required

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Minor Essential Revisions:

1) I have sent by e-mail to the editor (for forwarding to you) a copy of your manuscript with suggested changes (minor spelling corrections and changes in phrasing and English language usage) which I hope make the report easier to read.

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Discretionary Revisions:

2) The title accurately reflects the main focus of your case report on the immunohistochemical investigation results. I did wonder whether it was worth also addressing treatments in slightly more detail and modifying the title to make it clear that treatments, as well as investigations, are discussed? Perhaps a table summarising the treatments previously reported (including numbers of patients treated and a summary of results) could usefully complement your text in 2nd Paragraph under Conclusions. Incidentally, although you include reference 16 (Krasagakis, et al.) ECP seems to be missing from your list of treatments - especially as you state that you are now considering ECP for your patient this treatment should probably be included here.

3) I would consider shortening those aspects of the Conclusions which essentially repeat what you have reported under Results. I think your report would be enhanced if under Conclusions you concentrated more on your hypotheses as to what the constellation of investigation findings you report means (in terms of theories of aetiology and pathogenesis and implications for choice of therapy), and your overall impressions of the effects of the treatments you tried for this patient (initial improvement with methotrexate, possible - but uncertain - slowing or stopping of progression by UVA1).

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research
interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None