Reviewer’s report

Title: Association between low-dose pulsed intravenous cyclophosphamide therapy and amenorrhea in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus: A case-control study

Version: 1 Date: 19 March 2011

Reviewer: Hidekata Yasuoka

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript is very interesting, however, several questions were raised below.

Major compulsory revisions

1) Aim of this study is to clarify the incidence of amenorrhea following treatment with low-dose IVCY and the association between amenorrhea and clinical parameters of SLE, and the authors concluded in this manuscript that patients who are < 40 years old have some risk for sustained amenorrhea with low-dose IVCY treatment, and it is better to consider a higher risk of sustained amenorrhea by treatment with IVCY for SLE patients who are ≥ 40 years old. However, based on results in this manuscript, age ≥ 40 years old is a risk factor of amenorrhea for SLE patients included in this study, irrespective of treatment arms.

2) In 2nd paragraph, Result section: Results of logistic regression analysis and those of univariate analysis are presented. In this paragraph, the authors mentioned there was no significant association between age and amenorrhea by logistic regression analysis which is a multivariate analysis, then back to an univarite analysis. This description might raise a question for the study design itself, since it is difficult to understand which analysis is more important for the authors.

Minor Essential revisions:

1) Percentages in Table 3 and 4 are difficult to understand. This is different from Table 1 and 2.

2) Some results in Table 2 are repeatedly appeared in Table 3.

3) In Table 4, a gap between Age ≥ 40 years old and IVCY group is not needed.

4) In Table 6, I do not find a suffix #1 in the table.

Discretionary Revisions

1) In this study, the authors mentioned that patients who are ≥40 years old are risk factor for sustained amenorrhea irrespective of treatment arms. It seems to be quite natural that females who are ≥40 years old have higher rate of sustained amenorrhea in general. Is there any difference when compared with healthy
controls?

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: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.