Reviewer's report

Title: Down syndrome with microgranular variant of acute promyelocytic leukemia in a child - A case report

Version: 4 Date: 9 October 2007

Reviewer: Arnaldo A. Arbini

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 7 criteria for evaluation in the journal: An unexpected association between diseases or symptoms

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: No

Is the case report persuasive?: No

Does the case report have explanatory value?: No

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Comments to authors:

General
The authors present a case of an acute myeloid leukemia morphologically consistent with an acute promyelocytic leukemia, microgranular variant. However, the diagnosis was not confirmed by cytogenetical methods. Furthermore, flow cytometric immunophenotyping is not reported. Hence, this is a mere presumptive diagnosis based on morphological findings, not suitable for publication.

In addition, clinical follow-up including accurate description of therapy and clinical response would be desirable.

Revisions necessary for publication
Cyto genetic analysis (g-banding and FISH are desirable) confirming both the Down syndrome and the acute promyelocytic leukemia.

Flow cytometrical immunophenotyping on bone marrow aspirate.
Clinical follow-up with accurate description of therapy and clinical response.
What next?: Reject

Quality of written English: Acceptable