Reviewer’s report

Title: Hepatotoxicity induced by horse ATG and reversed by rabbit ATG: A case report

Version: 2 Date: 3 May 2007

Reviewer: Gregory Hale

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 7 criteria for evaluation in the journal: An unexpected event in the course of observing or treating a patient

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: Yes

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: Yes

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: Yes

Comments to authors:

General

Revisions necessary for publication

In this manuscript, the authors describe a patient with Fanconi anemia who developed hepatotoxicity while receiving equine ATG as part of the conditioning regimen for hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. Hepatotoxicity resolved when rabbit ATG was substituted for equine ATG. I have the following comments:

1. There are minor grammatical and typographical errors to be corrected.

2. I believe a figure would be more descriptive than a table for describing the pattern of AST, ALT and bilirubin in relationship to administration to ATG. The ATG administration can be designated on appropriate days in a figure using an arrow.

3. Was the sibling HLA-identical? The term compatible sibling donor is vague.

4. Generic names should be used throughout the manuscript. Brand names such as thymoglobulin or Bactrim should be avoided.

5. In the introduction, the authors state that rabbit ATG is more highly purified and may have lower incidence of side effects. Why was horse ATG used in their protocol as first choice?

6. Did the patient have any prior therapy with androgens? What was the patient's ferritin level? Did the patient have a liver biopsy prior to transplant? Had the patient had hepatitis in the past?

7. When cyclosporin was initiated as GVHD prophylaxis, what dosage was used and what levels were targeted?

8. The authors should include normal values from their institution for AST, ALT, and bilirubin.

9. The authors should avoid specific dates. Rather, they should use days before (-) and post (+) transplant to indicate time.
What next?: Accept after minor revisions

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