Reviewer's report

Title: A Postman with Severe Hypertriglyceridaemia Presenting with Atypical Chest Pain: A Case Report

Version: 2 Date: 16 May 2007

Reviewer: Tuomo Nieminen

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 7 criteria for evaluation in the journal: Presentations, diagnoses and/or management of new and emerging diseases

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?: No

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

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

Comments to authors:

General

This is an interesting case showing how promptly extreme hyperlipidaemia may be brought closer to normolipidaemia with pharmaceuticals. In addition, this case supports that observations that statins (and other medications used?) may dimish steatosis and lower the levels of liver enzymes.

However, there are many other possible reasons for chest pain in addition to severe hypertriglyceridaemia. For example, the diastolic blood pressure of 129 hints that maybe the chest pain was due to hypertension. The patient had a strong family history or coronary heart disease. It seems that no coronary angiography or similar was made on this patient. Even though possibly not giving frequent symptoms, it seems probable that there are considerable atherosclerotic changes in the arteries of this patient, also in the coronary arteries.

This case report appears more like a description how severe hypertriglyceridaemia is successfully treated. Unfortunately, I don't see the point of linking the chest pain and severe hypertriglyceridaemia, especially since other causes of chest pain have not been excluded. Would it be possible to decrease the emphasis on chest pain and concentrate on the drug treatment used? That would also shorten the paper.

Specific comments:

Abstract
The patient is 53 years, but one year less in the main text.
TnT could not be measured... Please add "due to hyperlipidaemia".

Revisions necessary for publication

What next?: Revise and resubmit

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