Reviewer’s report

Title: Spontaneous acute subdural hematoma as an initial presentation of choriocarcinoma: A case report

Version: 2 Date: 5 February 2008

Reviewer: Anil Nanda

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 7 criteria for evaluation in the journal: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

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?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

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

Comments to authors:

The incidence of CNS metastasis from Choriocarcinoma varies between 3 and 28%. (1)

In this case report authors present a case metastatic choriocarcinoma with subdural hemorrhage. Subdural hemorrhage is rare presentation in CNS metastatic choriocarcinoma. This is the third available report in literature. In this report it is interesting to note that histopathology did not show any evidence of metastatic choriocarcinoma. In some instances where hemorrhage has occurred the metastatic nature of the lesion may not be evident either at surgery or at autopsy (1) The obstetric history and elevated CSF to serum beta-HCG is suggestive of CNS disease. Serum: CSF ratio of less than 60:1 is a valuable and sensitive indicator of metastases in the brain. The authors emphasizes the point that metastatic choriocarcinoma should be in the differential diagnosis of intracranial pathology in women in the reproductive age and especially with history suggestive of molar pregnancy.

It would be good to get the long-term follow-up as this patient survived and this would be helpful. The only weakness is that there is no pathological proof of choriocarcinoma in the specimen.

Paper can be accepted.

1. Needs some language corrections before being published

2. The incidence of CNS metastasis from Choriocarcinoma varies between 3 and 28%. This was quoted from the following article Athanassiou, A, Begent, R.H.J., Newlands, E.S., et al. Central nervous system metastases of choriocarcinoma. 23 years’ experience at Charing Cross Hospital. (1983) Cancer, 52 (9), pp. 1728-1735.

Need to quote this article for citing that reference.

**What next?:** Accept after minor revisions

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