Reviewer's report

**Title:** Fatal injection of Ranitidine: a case report

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 30 January 2008

**Reviewer:** Maxton CL Pitcher

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 7 criteria for evaluation in the journal: Unreported or unusual side effects or adverse interactions involving medications

**Has the case been reported coherently?:** 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:**

A first report of a fatal reaction to IV Zantac/ranitidine.

1) The report is noted, but no comment has been made on:
   a) Concomitant medications and the relative timing of administration - this is crucial to accepting that ranitidine could have been causal in death.
   b) Furthermore, the timing of death relative to the administration of general anaesthetic is not stated. Presumably, other drugs could have been administered to cause anaphylaxis.
   c) Similarly, it would be expected that the patient had received a blood transfusion during TURP. Can the authors be certain that death was not due to a transfusion reaction?
   d) lab data should be included in the manuscript to show whether metabolic disturbance or sepsis could have contributed to death.
   e) how was the phial of Zantac made up and administered?

2. The post-mortem findings are noted, but
   a) these in themselves do not confirm that ranitidine was the cause of death. For example, many of the findings could be explained by intensive resuscitation.
   b) Specific mention should be made regarding autopsy examination of the lungs
and pulmonary vessels. The symptoms preceding death could have been caused by pulmonary embolism which clearly needs to have been excluded as a cause of death following TURP.

3) Was a serum total IgE measured?

4) Some minor language correction is needed before submission.

What next?: Reject

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