Reviewer’s report

Title: Nail changes secondary to Docetaxel chemotherapy

Version: 3 Date: 10 December 2007

Reviewer: In Sook Woo

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?: No

Is the case report authentic?: No

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?: Yes

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

Comments to authors:

Although Nail toxicity could be a quality of life factor for cancer patients. The incidence of onychopathy with taxane rages 0-44%. Some phase II study using taxane have never mentioned nail changes reflecting that the effects were either underestimated. Onychopathy with docetaxel chemotherapy is not unusual or unexpected side effect.

My opinion and question on your manuscript are followings. I hope it could be helpful if you submit to another article.

I wonder if the onychopathy were more aggravated or not undergoing the chemotherapy.

You would rather describe the dose modification.

There are some points to be added in your article as followings:

1. There are two kinds of grading system on nail toxicity with chemotherapy: the common toxicity criteria from NCI (version 2.0), three grades by Spazzapan S et al.

The patients from this article he looks to have grade I toxicity. I would like to recommend to describe the grade in the part of case presentation and add the explanation briefly on the criteria in the part of discussion.
2. Recently nail toxicity associated with taxane in a variety of clinical pathologies even subungal abscess and paresthesia. Onychopathy may impact on the quality of life of cancer patients. Different managements are required according to the grade.

It has been suggested that taxoid related onychopathy are associated with an altered integrity of peripheral nerves.

What next?: Reject

Quality of written English: Acceptable