Reviewer’s report

Title: Successful desensitization with human insulin in a patient with an insulin allergy and hypersensitivity to protamine: a case report

Version: 3 Date: 27 June 2008

Reviewer: Johannes Ring

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 9 criteria for evaluation in the journal: Other

If other, please specify:

Unexpected efficacy of management of a type III allergy to insuline

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?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The authors report a successful desensitization with human insulin in a patient with type III reactions to insulin. The ultra-rush protocol they used for desensitization has been used successfully in patients with type I allergy before. It is interesting that the authors could successfully desensitize a type III reaction. The mechanism of tolerance induction seems unclear. Could the authors comment on the rationale for using fexofenadin as concomitant treatment (as they did not expect a type I reaction in their patient)?

Typing error:

Page 3 line 10: Protamine sulphate is a low molecular weight polycationic protein instead of Protamine sulphate as a low molecular weight polycationic protein
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:
none