Reviewer’s report

Title: Fulminant herpes simplex hepatitis secondary to tongue piercing in an immunocompetent adult: a case report

Version: 5 Date: 2 August 2008

Reviewer: Shivaram Prasad Singh

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 9 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?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: Yes

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: Yes

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

There is need for some language corrections. Some suggestions for correction are mentioned below. These can be avoided if you do a pre submission peer review with the help of a colleague with good command over English.

Conclusion

In 2nd and 3rd sentence of Conclusion, use of “imperative in the prevention of” in both appears repetitive and should be avoided. Besides, the last sentence ends with ‘in the prevention of death of liver transplantation’ needs correction. Do the authors mean: ‘for prevention of severe disease resulting in liver transplantation or death.’

Discussion

4th sentence: Patients with HSV hepatitis can present with a wide range of symptomatology, from severe coagulopathy with loss of consciousness to mild constitutional symptoms.
The sentence has a jarring note. It would be better to change the latter half to: “from mild constitutional symptoms to severe coagulopathy with loss of consciousness.”

Discussion
In Page 5 of 14, first 2 lines are as follows: “Early initiation of antiviral therapy, most commonly acyclovir, can greatly improve chances of survival.”

This sentence should be altered to: “Early initiation of antiviral therapy, especially acyclovir, can improve chances of survival.”

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests.