Reviewer’s report

Title: Severe generalised hypersensitivity reaction to topical neomycin after cataract surgery: a case report

Version: 2 Date: 4 November 2007

Reviewer: Allen Hu

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 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

Comments to authors:

General

Well-organized, good descriptions of various types of hypersensitivity reactions in the introduction section.

Case is well-presented, clinically relevant, and succinct.

Revisions necessary for publication

The case report should report the other medications that the patient was taking during the post operative period as this may not necessarily represent an allergic response but some sort of adverse drug reaction due to use of a combination of medications. Did the patient take any oral medicaitons in the perioperative period that could account for the rash?

Captions for the photos needs to describe the rash in more detail. Was it macular? papular? puritic? discrete versus confluent lesions. Were any other
mucus membranes involved to suggest a Steven's Johnson or toxic epidermal necrolysis reaction?

Grammar: on page 4: should read: "An 80 year old Caucasian male underwent routine phacoemulsification cataract extraction"

should read, "chemotherapy and radiation."

Capitalize the T after the sentence ending in "Neomycin ear drops 30 years previously."

the patient was treated with systemic Prednisone (not prednisolone) 20 mg...

In the conclusion section, the authors should discuss alternative medications that could have been used to prevent this complication.

What next?: Accept after minor revisions

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