Reviewer's report

**Title:** Rapidly progressing fatal acute promyelocytic leukemia first manifested as painful third molar: a case report

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 13 November 2008

**Reviewer:** Francesco Lo Coco

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: 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:

The case is well worth to be known by the medical community. Dentists and internists in particular should be made aware of this possible unusual presentation of acute promyelocytic leukemia, a potentially fulminant disease that if rapidly recognised and treated converts into the most curable adult leukemia.

- The report should be considerably shortened (discussion is too long) and grammar/style checked for improvement.
- Guidelines recommend among supportive measures to counteract the coagulopathy, fresh frozen plasma to maintain fibrinogen levels above 100-150 mg/dL
- The statement in the discussion related to diagnostic confirmation should include the mandatory requirement of confirming diagnosis with genetic

demonstration of t(8;17) or PML/RARA gene fusion.

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests’