Reviewer’s report

Title: Rapidly progressing, fatal acute promyelocytic leukaemia that initially manifested as a painful third molar: a case report

Version: 5 Date: 11 March 2009

Reviewer: David C. Williams

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 the case report ethical?: Yes

Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: No

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:

This case presentation “Rapidly progressing fatal acute promyelocytic leukemia first manifested as painful third molar: a case report” describes a relatively uncommon presentation of acute promyelocytic leukemia. The patient initially presented for a painful third molar that led to tooth extraction. The diagnosis of acute leukemia was not made until after some delay and unfortunately the patient died secondary to well known complications of acute promyelocytic leukemia. This case is interesting and should be reported to help other dental surgeons recognize when a more detailed history and laboratory workup should be performed to avoid a similar outcome.
In this revised review, the authors have clarified the timeline of presentation and the overall description of the case. It is an interesting report worthy of publication.

One small point that is worth noting. The authors refer to Auerbach rolls - a term that is unfamiliar to me. Auer rods are often seen in malignant promyelocytes, which may be what the authors are describing.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests