Reviewer's report

Title: Bilateral macular hemorrhage as a complication of drug induced anemia: A case report

Version: 2 Date: 8 September 2008

Reviewer: Luk Hsiang-Ning

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Unreported or unusual side effects or adverse interactions involving medications

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?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: No

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:

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This is an interesting case of drug-related bilateral macular hemorrhage. Bilateral macular hemorrhage has been reported in a case of autoimmune hemolytic anemia, as the authors cited. The present ocular finding due to drug toxicity in this case is rare, but not so surprising if cause-effect relation existed. The authors hypothesized that substitution of folinic acid with folic acid might be the contributing factor causing bilateral macular hemorrhage, via bone marrow toxicity. The authors, however, should explain and discuss why macular hemorrhage could occur in the absence of thrombocytopenia. Namely, the link between bone marrow toxicity, absence of thrombocytopenia and macular
hemorrhage should be discussed.

Specific comments:
1. Specify the prior ocular findings of toxoplasmosis in this patient.
2. Specify the duration of medication prior to this episode.
3. 4 gr should be 4 gm (?); 7.5 mg should be 7.5 mg
4. Is the recovery time course (Hgb from 4.2 to 10.8) compatible with the drug-induced bone marrow toxicity?
5. Discuss the contributing role of anemia and neutropenia to macular hemorrhage (especially when thrombocytopenia is not present).

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