Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 3 Date: 22 September 2008

Reviewer: Manuel Carcao

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?: 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?: No

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

Has the case been reported coherently? Yes - But could be much better
Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice? Yes - perhaps
Language and grammar should be improved.

Additional suggestions:

The patients with ocular toxoplasmosis are usually treated with an association of sulfadiazine and pyrimethamine for 6 to 8 weeks.

Change this to: combination of sulfadiazine and pyrimethamine for 6 to 8 weeks
Case presentation

The patient presented with an intense anemia (change to severe anemia) and severe neutropenia.

Bone marrow aspirate was normocellular (spelling) with hyperplasia …

OS showed a macular haemorrhage. It was decided to observe and elevated decubitus (rewrite this) was recommended so that the blood could sediment and clear the visual axis.

Again elevated decubitus (rewrite) was recommended. After four days (rewrite – Four days later …) the visual acuity was …

Discussion

Causes for this haemorrhage include Valsalva maneuver, diabetic retinopathy, retinal branch vein occlusion, ruptured macro aneurism of the retina and shaken baby syndrome. Other rare causes include thrombocytopenia secondary to bone marrow aplasia, leukemia, autoimmune hemolytic anemia (this by itself does not cause thrombocytopenia and hence should be removed), aplastic anemia secondary to drug toxicity, severe head trauma (not associated with thrombocytopenia), bleeding secondary to intercourse and intraocular pressure variation during refractive surgery (LASIK).

Rewrite this paragraph to indicate that most cases of this type of bleeding result from thrombocytopenia from various causes but additional reasons include severe head trauma, bleeding secondary to intercourse and intraocular pressure variation during refractive surgery (LASIK).

In our report, the patient presented the haemorrhage while admitted in the hospital and being constantly evaluated. (Rewrite)

The hematologic investigation(s), including bone marrow aspirate, were compatible with drug induced bone marrow toxicity in response to pyrimethamine or sulfur [2-5].

These drugs interfere with the conversion of folate to its active form, tetrahydrofolate, (which is) essential for DNA synthesis..

Conclusion

Bilateral macular haemorrhages secondary to anemia are rare and to the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of a subhyaloid hemorrhage secondary (to) drug induced bone marrow toxicity.
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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