Reviewer’s report

Title: Coexistence of pernicious anemia and prostate cancer: an experiment of nature involving vitamin B12 modulation of prostate cancer growth and metabolism: a case report

Version: 4 Date: 19 December 2008

Reviewer: Valeria Caramello

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Findings that shed new light on the possible pathogenesis of a disease or an adverse effect

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?: No

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

- It would be interesting to add laboratory data (particularly Hb and MCV) at presentation or during the first 10 months of follow up and to know, if possible, B12 and holoTC values at this times. Screening for anemia (Hb and MCV at least) is recommended in cancer patients for good clinical practice. In prostate cancer this is mandatory because of the incidence of associated haematological alterations even before diagnosis or early in the natural history of the disease. These data could help evaluate the true role of holoTc deficiency and B12 replacement in histologic progression and cell growth.

- What about the levels of folic acid in this patient? Folic acid is known to be
associated with cell growth itself. Did you administer folic acid too? Please add this information in the case report.

- Anemia in cancer patients is often multifactorial: please detail how you exclude other causes of anemia.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests