Reviewer's report

Title: Radiation recall dermatitis with soft tissue necrosis after pemetrexed

Version: 3 Date: 26 August 2008

Reviewer: alessandra bearz

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:

Radiation recall dermatitis with soft tissue necrosis after pemetrexed: a case report

Spirig C. et al

The work reports coherently, ethically and in an authentic way an unexpected side effect of Pemetrexed after previous radiotherapy. There are others previous reports about this issue in the literature (Hureaux J et al. Lung Cancer 2005, 50:255-8; Barlesi F et al, Lung Cancer 2006; 54:423-5). The severity of this case report makes the difference between the present case report and the previous ones, so I think it is worth to report. The previous cases were observed in patients treated with less intensive radiotherapy (one patient was treated with...
adjuvant radiotherapy for breast cancer, the other one received 21 Gy for mesothelioma) and they were less severe than the one described by Spirig et al. Please add a comment about those previous reports and a possibly correlation between dose of previous radiotherapy and the severity grade of radiation recall dermatitis.

Pag 1. Abstract. Line 13.” .....life threatening effects....”: I would use life-threatening effects;

Pag 1. Introduction. Line 19. The reference number in brackets shows only #1; I would add also # 2 and #3, therefore (1,2,3);

Pag 1. Introduction. Line 21. Please change the references, references #2 and #3 do not describe side effects by pemetrexed. I would add the upper mentioned references.

Pag 3. Conclusions. Last line. “....the causative role of pemetrexed is confirmed.”. I would use a less strong adjective, such as “....the causative role of pemetrexed is likely”.

My conclusion is: the paper is accepted after minor revisions.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'