Reviewer's report

Title: Correlation between Atazanavir Ctrough and Hyperbilirubinemia: a case report

Version: 2 Date: 27 November 2008

Reviewer: Francesca Conradie

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: An unexpected event in the course of observing or treating a patient

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

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?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: No

Comments to authors:

I am concerned that the patient may be identifiable. From the report, it is known that he is homosexual Argentinean air steward. Some of this detail may allow him to be indentified. I think that it would help if his nationality is not stated.

The common side effect of the drug Atazanavir is unconjugated hyper bilirubineamia- there are a few mentions of this but I would like to see all the data on the unconjugated hyper bilirubineamia separately from the conjugated hyper bilirubineamia.

While the transaminase levels were normal, were the other liver enzymes normal- alkaline phosphatase and gamma GT. If these were raised, this would suggest enzyme induction as a possible reason for the drop in the bilirubin.

It is stated that the patient was HBV positive- does this mean antibody or surface antigen?

Why was the patient given ddI and d4T? I understand that the resistance result shows it to be a good choice, this combination is hepatotoxic. Do the authors
have any reason to believe regimens this would have had an impact?

The use of the word frantic is incorrect- it should be frenetic.

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have been involved in many trials for Atazanavir and am currently the principal investigator for BMS 182- the use of Atazanavir in pregnancy. I do not think however that the publication of this article with have any financial impact for myself.