Reviewer’s report

Title: Lanthanum induced abnormal liver function tests in 2 patients on dialysis: a case series

Version: 3 Date: 14 December 2008

Reviewer: Daniel Zehnder

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?: 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?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The two case reports are well presented and worked up. However, the authors seem to be convinced that the hepatotoxicity is due to Lanthanum. I would recommend to provide a more balanced discussion. At present it is more a political statement. These cases do not finally prove that lanthanum is hepatotoxic!

- possible interaction?
- there is good evidence that Lanthanum itself is safe. This needs discussion. For the authors it seems clear that Lanthanum accumulates and therefore must be toxic. If this is the case, why do the liver enzymes improve rather quickly?
- It is rather bold to make a definite judgement without definite tests.
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests.