Reviewer's report

Title: VACTERL Spectrum with Portal Hypertension - a case report

Version: 2 Date: 18 February 2009

Reviewer: Mohamed Fahmy

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

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?: Yes

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

It will be much better not to start the manuscript with abbreviation, So VACTERL in the title and abstract can be replaced by esophageal atresia with associated other anomalies (VACTERL)

In page 3 Case presentation:-
The antenatal history is deficient as regard the mother parity, consanguinity, family history and Hydramnios.

Esophageal atresia, which is a cardinal finding in VACTERAL association, is not present in this case so it will be difficult to accept that the given case is a VECTRAL, and this not explained by the authors in the discussion.

How the authors investigate for occult blood and the child already had haematemesis, it is logic to have blood in the stool.
Ultrasonic dimension of the portal vein should be mentioned. Reference are so scanty, and there are many language errors.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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