Reviewer's report

Title: Sudden deterioration due to intratumoral hemorrhage of ependymoma of the fourth ventricle in an infant during flight

Version: 3 Date: 31 July 2008

Reviewer: James Owens

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 9 criteria for evaluation in the journal: 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?: No

Does the case report have explanatory value?: No

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:

Although the case report could certainly use some editing for style and English syntax and grammar, the case is laid out coherently.

This case report describes a hemorrhage into an anaplastic ependymoma in a child during an airplane flight. Since the most recent imaging prior to the flight was approximately four weeks it is difficult to say with certainty that the hemorrhage occurred during the flight itself. Post-flight imaging is not provided, but this would be helpful since the signal characteristics of blood evolve over time on MRI. Also, it is not stated what the maximal altitude achieved on this flight was (since flights of relatively short distances may not involve as high an altitude as is seen in longer flights).

The type of plane may also make a difference as far as cabin pressurization. Finally, I'm not sure that there is any evidence that a CO2 level which does not exceed the FAA standard of 5% causes any change in cerebral blood flow. If the authors are aware of such data they should provide a reference,
otherwise this is likely not a necessary speculation.

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests