Reviewer's report

Title: Unusual primary HIV infection with colonic ulcer complicated by hemorrhagic shock: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 9 December 2009

Reviewer: Verena Moos

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Findings that shed new light on the possible pathogenesis of a disease or an adverse effect

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:

General Comments:
The authors present an interesting case of acute HIV infection presenting with a colonic ulcer combined with gastrointestinal bleeding. Since the description of ulceration during acute HIV infection is rare, this is an interesting presentation that expands the knowledge of the pathogenesis of early HIV infection and emphasizes the importance of an early treatment.

However, the information of the authors given is somehow fragmentary and some clinical details should be added.

Specific comments:
Case presentation, line 1: please specify the hepatitisB (acute or chronically, treatment)

Case presentation, line 2: please specify Angina (Angina Tonsillaris?, was the patient tested for Streptococci?)

Case presentation, line 10: please provide the detailed clinical symptoms of the mononucleosis syndrome. Was the patient tested for EBV, CMV, Toxoplasmosis, HSV, or Streptococci and how was the result?

Case presentation, line 17: please specify the biopsy findings, what stainings were performed, which inflammatory parameters were detected, were any cell infiltrates found? Was the biopsy tested for other infections? Was a CD4 or an P24 staining performed?

Case presentation, line 18: please specify the remaining symptoms of the mononucleosis syndrome.

Minor comments:
Abstract
introduction line 2: please correct to pharyngitis
Conclusion line 5: correct punctuation behind antibody test

Introduction:
Line 4: correct punctuation behind PHI
Line 5: remove (PHI) or rewrite the phrase.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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