Reviewer’s report

Title: Nitrofurantoin-Induced Autoimmune Chronic Active Hepatitis

Version: 2 Date: 27 April 2010

Reviewer: Goiuseppe MAGGIORE

Which of the following 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?: No

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: No

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:

This is an interesting series of 3 adult female patients with an autoimmune hepatitis developed during a treatment with nitrofurantoin.

First the term used in the title is obsolete and should be changed in autoimmune hepatitis. Autoimmune hepatitis can present as an acute or chronic liver disease and in fact two of the three patients had acute onset. For the same reason autoimmune chronic hepatitis at page 4 lines 5 and 9 should be changed in autoimmune hepatitis.

Second, autoimmune hepatitis is a cryptogenic disorder, for this reason the title “Nitrofurantoin-induced autoimmune hepatitis” is contradictory. Nitrofurantoin may trigger the autoimmune process, but it cannot be considered as a cause. The title should thus be changed in Nitrofurantoin-triggered autoimmune hepatitis
or something like.

Finally, the authors cannot exclude a chronic DILI (drug induced liver injury) by nitrofurantoin since they continued to treat their patients like an autoimmune hepatitis and did not try to stoop their treatment. In these form of DILI (i.e. by propylthiouracyl) stopping the treatment alone may resolve the autoimmune features. This must be deeply discussed by the authors.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable