Reviewer’s report

Title: Extramedullary hematopoiesis presenting as a compressive cord and cerebral lesion in a patient without a significant Hematologic Disorder

Version: 3 Date: 27 May 2009

Reviewer: Pascal Derkinderen

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: An unexpected association between diseases or symptoms

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is the case report ethical?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: No

Is the case report persuasive?: No

Does the case report have explanatory value?: No

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

This manuscript reports a case of EMH that affects both the spinal cord and the brain. I have one major comment about this manuscript: from the title, the introduction and the discussion, it is unclear what make this case unusual and why such a case report deserves to be published. The two reasons stressed by the authors are: (i) the simultaneous involvement of spinal cord and brain (ii) the lack of underlying haematological disorder in this patient. This is pretty unconvincing: regarding the involvement of the whole neuraxis, it is not so surprising that EMH may involve several regions of the CNS. Regarding the lack of haematological disorder, it is likely that this patient will develop, with time, such a problem…

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'