Reviewer's report

Title: EBV Myelitis and Castleman's Disease in a Patient with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS): a Case Report

Version: 2 Date: 23 November 2010

Reviewer: Bruce Dezube

Which of the 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?: 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:

THE CASE REPORT IS OF INTEREST TO THE READERSHIP OF YOUR JOURNAL. NEEDS SOME REVISIONS AS FOLLOWS:

MAJOR COMMENTS:
1) PATIENT HAD BOTH EBV MYELITIS AND CASTLEMAN'S DISEASE, A DISEASE DRIVEN BY HHV8. BOTH OF THESE ARE HERPES VIRUSES. I WAS A BIT SURPRISED THAT AT NO POINT DID THE AUTHORS MAKE NOTE OF THE FACT THAT BOTH OF THESE VIRUSES ARE HERPES VIRUSES. THERE ARE ARTICLES IN THE LITERATURE DESCRIBING HOW THESE TRAVEL TOGETHER IN PATIENTS.
2) SURPRISINGLY THERE ARE 14 REFERENCES WITH ONLY 3 OF THEM BEING LESS THAN 5 YEARS OLD. MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT CASTLEMAN’S DISEASE IN THE PAST 5 YEARS. AUTHORS NEED TO USE MORE UP-TO-DATE REFERENCES. MARK BOWER (UNITED KINGDOM) HAS LARGE SERIES IN ANNALS OF MEDICINE DESCRIBING RITUXIMAB USE. IN ADDITION THERE IS VERY RECENT REVIEW OF CASTLEMANS IN CLINICAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES. MULTIPLE OTHER ARTICLES HAVE BEEN RECENTLY PUBLISHED (J CLIN ONCOL AND BLOOD TO NAME BUT A FEW)

MORE MINOR
1) viral load<50 copies should be viral load < 50 copies/ml
2) C-Reactive protein 5 mg/l. Please provide laboratory normals
3) azidothymididine is not spelled correctly in case presentation. But rather than spelling correctly, authors should replace it with zidovudine.
4) In many places Castlemans is abbreviated as MCD, in other places as CD. It should be MCD in all places.
5) Legend Figure 2: Authors do not state what is stained by the immunohistochemistry. Is it staining lambda chains or HHV8?

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I HAVE NO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST