Reviewer's report

Title: Acute opioid intoxication in an infant chronically exposed to cocaine and heroin

Version: 2 Date: 6 October 2010

Reviewer: Frank Musshoff

Which of the following following best describes what type of case report this is?: 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 the case report ethical?: Yes

Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: 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

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The present paper describes an acute opioid intoxication in an infant chronically exposed to cocaine and heroin. The title is contradictory: Was it chronically or acute?

Following points have not been considered:
- Urine of the infant should be tested for 6MAM as a definite heroin marker.
- The infant’s blood/plasma concentrations of relevant drugs are missing.
- The mother declared an acute codeine ingestion and morphine is a metabolite of codeine; the mother’s genotyping is missing (see the case of Koren et al. in Lancet).
- Drug concentrations in the infant’s hair could be the result of prenatal exposure;
The time window of exposure is not clear.

The paper does not warrant publication in its present form and needs a major revision.

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