Reviewer's report

Title: Acute Pancreatitis with Saw Palmetto Use: A Case Report

Version: 1 Date: 7 April 2011

Reviewer: Achilleas Ntinas

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?: 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:

It is important for the authors to describe better the past medical history of the patient (why there were not medications for hyperlipidemia-why he was on lansoprazole-if he had a similar episode in the past).

It is mentioned that the patient had an ultrasound and a contrast CT of the abdomen which demonstrated no gallstones of the gallbladder and no choledocholithiasis. We suppose that the patient has no hereditary pancreatitis (he is over 60 years and probably this wouldn’t be his first episode of acute pancreatitis). How can the authors rule out that the patient has any anatomical variants of the pancreas or has microlithiasis without MRCP or endoscopic ultrasound, as you mention in the text?

Finally, if I understood well, it is referred as saw palmetto’s potential mechanism
of action the probability of induction a hypercoagulable state that leads to pancreatic necrosis. In your case there was no pancreatic necrosis but only peripancreatic changes. I am not convinced that saw palmetto caused the pancreatitis and from my turn I could possible mention that the cause of acute pancreatitis was lansoprazole (it would be the 1st case report of this kind of PPI's).

For all the above mentioned reasons, I don't feel that their report, interesting as it is, adds anything to what has already been published regarding the possibility of saw palmetto to induce acute pancreatitis. I would be very glad to read their revised paper.

Sincerely yours,
Achilleas Ntinas, MD PhD

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'