Reviewer’s report

Title: Pregnancy in Multiple System Atrophy - A Case Report

Version: 1 Date: 28 August 2011

Reviewer: Mari Yoshida

Which of the following following best describes what type of case report this is?: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

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?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

This is a paper of entitled “Pregnancy in Multiple System Atrophy – A Case Report” by Lirong Zhu et al, which described the clinicopathological features of MSA patient with younger onset, who successfully delivered a full-term child.

It is a very interesting and important paper to elucidate that MSA can affect young women of childbearing age and pregnancy may be associated with marked disease progression. The clinical course was well descried, however there are some questions.

1) Case presentation

I wonder the final clinical diagnosis of the patient was PD or not. It is well known that early stage of MSA can be difficult to distinguish from Parkinson disease.
However, MRI signal abnormalities in patients with MSA showing cross bans sign and putaminal atrophy with abnormal signals can be confirmed at least 3 or more years after onset. Did you find any abnormal findings of MRI or CT before STN-DBS?

2) Case presentation, last paragraph

In abstract, authors describe “Neuropathologic examination revealed striatonigral degeneration and #-synuclein-positive glial cytoplasmic inclusions in brain stem nuclei, basal ganglia and white matter tracts, consistent with a neuropathological diagnosis of MSA.” However, in pathological findings, the macroscopic and microscopic pictures of putamen are minimum. Please add the adequate descriptions.

3) Case presentation, last paragraph

“We describe the case of a woman with pathologically confirmed MSA-P.”

The MSA-P and MSA-C were designated to the clinical features. In pathological description, olivo-ponto-cerebellar degeneration and striatenigral degeneration may be adequate. In this case, which system is more severely involved?

4) Did you find Lewy bodies in the peripheral sympathetic ganglia?

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.