Reviewer’s report

Title: Management of aplastic anemia during pregnancy: a case report

Version: 5 Date: 3 September 2010

Reviewer: Barto Nascimento

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

If other, please specify:

The management of a rare condition during pregnancy

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:

General Comments
Overall, the manuscript is reasonably well written. However, it requires some revisions for publication.

The study addresses a relevant topic for the clinician. It reports on the management of Aplastic Anemia during pregnancy. Due to the rarity of the condition and limited therapeutic options during pregnancy, the publication of such a case should add to the sparse literature on the topic.

The major revision required concerns the length of the article, in particular the
introduction. For the expected format of a case report for this journal, the authors present a “lengthy discussion of the literature for an introduction”. The main focus should be to introduce the topic and to justify its review.

Major Revisions
This reviewer suggests removing the part of the introduction that starts with the question (line 16 of introduction) until its end. Instead, the authors could briefly introduce the case and the literature review to be discussed. The authors should keep in mind that the idea is to present the case discussing the relevant points about their management and reporting summary information on the pertinent literature.

As mentioned in the paper, nowadays, good outcomes with high survival rates are expected in case of Aplastic Anemia during pregnancy. This reviewer also suggests the authors to elaborate more on the circumstances of the death, in particular the coagulation status prior to the intra-cranial bleeding. What was the platelet count preceding the hemorrhagic event? It would be interesting to comment on the prophylactic platelet transfusion threshold and dosage, particularly in the light of recent published randomized control trial addressing the issue (Slichter et al. N Engl J Med. Feb 2010). Provide some clarification of the time course of the brain infarction and bleeding.

In the conclusion of the abstract, the authors focused on the findings of the literature search performed. The conclusion should be more concise presenting the main point of the case and its management based on the available evidence.

Minor Revisions
In the abstract, remove “level of evidence 4”in the conclusion. If included, it would require explanation about the levels of evidence. However, it is beyond the scope of this report.

In the case presentation section, second paragraph, include also the target hemoglobin level. In the same paragraph, change “platelet target count” to “target platelet count”. Also, use platelet transfusion instead of platelets transfusion.

In the case presentation section, second paragraph, change the part of the phrase “colistin and tobramycin drink was” to “oral colistin and tobramycin were”.

In the discussion section, second paragraph, remove the statement “level of evidence 4” for the reasons aforementioned.

In the discussion section, fourth paragraph, change “our reported mortality” to “the current reported mortality”.

In the conclusion section, the word immunosuppressiva needs correction. Also, remove “level of evidence 4”. Finally, this reviewer suggests changing the word “unpredictable” in the last sentence.

In Figure Legends, Figure 1, the word “crista iliaca” needs correction.

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests