Reviewer’s report

Title: Development of Buffalo Hump in course of antiretroviral therapy including raltegravir and unboosted atazanavir: a case report and review of the literature.

Version: 1 Date: 2 March 2010

Reviewer: Francesc Villarroya

Which of the following 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?: No

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: Yes

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:

This manuscript is an original report on the appearance of buffalo hump in a patient under antiretroviral treatment with new drugs, not previously anticipated to cause massive alterations in fat distribution. It is an original communication, worth to be communicated to the clinical and scientific audience.

However, there are a couple of points that should be addressed to improve the quality of the manuscript.

First, the authors should tone down the mention in the summary and discussion to the knowledge about which specific drugs causing preferentially the appearance of buffalo hump. Although it is generally assumed that drugs eliciting most of the other symptoms of lipodystrophy are also more prone to cause
buffalo hump, a clear-cut picture is lacking, so this aspect is better to be toned down across the manuscript.

Second, the authors should discuss the report without excluding the possibility that the long previous treatment of the patient with antiretroviral drugs prone to contribute to lipodystrophy, such as stavudine, could constitute a background that contributes to the final appearance of buffalo hump after raltegravir + atazanavir treatment. In other words, the report cannot be discussed as if the patient was a naïve patient developing buffalo hump after initial treatment with raltegravir + atazanavir. It would be advisable to modulate the Discussion in this sense.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable