Reviewer's report

Title: Paracetamol serum concentrations in preterm infants treated with paracetamol intravenously: a case series of nine.

Version: 2 Date: 19 January 2011

Reviewer: karel allegaert

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

If other, please specify:
on the tolerated misuse of a given compound in neonates

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?: No

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

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

Is the anonymy of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

I read the paper on paracetamol serum concentrations in preterm infants (? neonates) with great interest. There is debate on the use and the safety of this compound in (pre)term neonates, following inadverted administration of 10x doses of iv paracetamol to (pre)term neonates, so therefore this report might be well timed. We hereby agree that the number of observations in < 32 wks are indeed limited.

The authors should further stress that the doses administered were 'original', off
label and also ‘off-practice’, and likely due to a miscalculation (no conversion from propacetamol to paracetamol, crr paediatr anesth, allegaert-murat-anderson: not all iv paracetamol formulations are created equal’). Please also check the ‘loading’ dose and maintenance doses, since is strongly depends on the compound used. In its current form, the 3th alinea of the discussion is not in line with what we have described and administered.

the authors should also integrated the reported problems with inadverted dose administration of iv paracetamol (as communicated by the manufacturer).

In essence, this paper suggest that this compound should be considered, but needs more extensive exploration in preterm neonates, including aspects of tolerance and efficacy.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests