Reviewer's report

Title: Solid Food Protein induced Enterocolitis Syndrome - four new cases, a brief review of the literature and possible new insights of the pathological mechanisms

Version: 3 Date: 11 February 2012

Reviewer: Sam Mehr

Which of the following following best describes what type of case report this is?: None

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: No

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:

Dear editor,

The authors describe 4 cases of FPIES, and report T-cell activation studies performed with the triggering food was negative in all cases. They conclude oligoclonal T-cell activation may be a potential mechanism.

The issues are:

1. The authors do not provide any information on how they performed the T-cell activation studies (? proliferative studies and/or cytokine release assays) and do not present the results. I believe this important, given others have demonstrated T-cell proliferative responses in FPIES (Van Sickle GJ, Powell GK, McDonald PJ,

2. Based on the cases the authors presented, and the fact that T-cell activation did not actually occur in their cases, it is not possible to conclude on the evidence at hand, that oligoclonal T-cell activation could be a mechanism (although I think this is a very interesting hypothesis).

3. Minor points
   a) Cow's milk, soy, and rice would be considered the three most common foods causing FPIES (wheat is relatively uncommon)
   b) Table 1 no longer exists ((page 8)

Quality of written English: Acceptable