Reviewer's report

Title: Carnitine deficiency presenting with encephalopathy and hyperammonia in patients with chronic enteral tube feeding

Version: 2 Date: 23 March 2012

Reviewer: M. Iftekhar Ullah

Which of the 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?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

In the title: Hyperammonia should be changed to hyperammonemia

Names of his psychiatric medications should be mentioned and explain why they were thought to be non-contributory to his symptoms.

At the end of first paragraph under the heading of case presentation, the sentence "In fact, he became more belligerent, and had day-night cycle reversal which he became more drowsy during daytime with nighttime agitation" should be rephrased.

What did the authors mean by the sentence "The serum albumin was nonspecifically low at 29 g/L but there was no clinical stigmata of chronic liver disease"? The
authors may just mention that the albumin level was low without any manifestation of hypoalbuminemia.

The discussion section should be revised to make it more compact.

Inclusions of following references are recommended:

David L. Coulter; Carnitine Deficiency in Epilepsy: Risk Factors and Treatment J Child Neurol November 1995 10: 2S32-2S39

Manuel et al; Serum Carnitine Levels in Epileptic Children Before and During Treatment With Valproic Acid, Carbamazepine, and Phenobarbital J Child Neurol November 1998 13: 546-549

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None