Reviewer’s report

Title: Title: Anemia secondary to valproic acid therapy in a 13-year-old boy: a case report.

Version: 2 Date: 15 April 2012

Reviewer: Andrea Domenico Praticò

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Findings that shed new light on the possible pathogenesis of a disease or an adverse effect

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?: No

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?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The paper of Kaczorowska-Hac and coll. reports on a relatively frequent side effect induced by valproic acid therapy: anemia.

Introduction
Ok

Case presentation
The presentation of the clinical case is well-written, although it could be shortened (especially in the patient history before the episode of anemia). A figure of the bone marrow biopsy could be included.
In the section regarding laboratory tests from the episode of anemia to the normalization, a chart showing the increase of Hb related to the reduction and interruption of the valproic acid could be interesting. Regarding this, was the valproic acid suspended slowly or all at once?

Discussion

The review of literature should be more exhaustive: it could be useful to explain if anemia or other clinical effects may be dose or time related or not. Some data could be summarized in a table. In page 5 the sentence "contrary to other reports we observed qualitative abnormalities of erythropoiesis in bone marrow only" is not clear, also because the other cases are not explained: are they with qualitative abnormalities also in blood? or with quantitative and qualitative abnormalities in bone marrow?

Conclusions are clear and concise

Minor revision:

English language should be improved

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

Declaration of competing interests:

The reviewer disclose any financial competing interests and any non-financial competing interests in the matter treated in this paper.

The reviewer declares that he has not competing interests.