Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 17 April 2012

Reviewer: Tulio TK Konstantyner

Which of the 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?: 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:

• General comments
I believe the study is of great interest since it addresses the issue of adverse hematological effects of valproic acid therapy, focusing to the anemia secondary as an important situation to be considered in that case. The health professionals should be adequately advised about that possibility in time of prescription and following of their patients. Therefore, I recommend for publication after some language corrections.

• Revisions necessary for publication
However, I would like to suggest some changes and inclusions:
a) Introduction – It would be important to include rates (prevalence or incidence) of each adverse effect presented in the first paragraph, especially anemia. Even that they are insignificant.

b) Case presentation – It seems appropriate present the laboratory parameters in a table as soon the reading would become easier and clear. Moreover, I ask authors to add information about the adhesion to the treatment. Was it 100%?

c) Discussion – Phrase supporting if there is or there is no influence of Loratadinum on anemia should be added.

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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'