Reviewer’s report

Title: Chronic hepatitis E virus infection in a leukemia patient: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 3 June 2012

Reviewer: Nassim KAMAR

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?: No

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:

Braun and Wenzel et al. reports a single case of chronic HEV infection that occurred in an hematological patient. The patient was cleared of the virus spontaneously without any anti-viral therapy. Few cases of chronic HEV infection have been reported in hematological patients.

The case report and the paper in general could be significantly improved.

1- How do the authors explain the spontaneous clearance of HEV? They should provide at least the lymphocyte count during HEV infection and at HEV clearance. Did they check lymphocyte subsets? CD4, CD8, CD19..

2- The authors wrote that the HEV viremia was positive in August 2011. However, it seems that 4 weeks after HEV diagnosis in July 2011, the patient was cleared of the virus. Please clarify.
3- References should be updated.

4- Previous case reports of chronic HEV infection in hematological patients should be discussed, as well as possible anti-viral therapies.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None