Reviewer's report

Title: The use of a lumbar drain for management of pseudotumor cerebri caused by All-trans retinoic acid

Version: 2 Date: 20 May 2012

Reviewer: Harold Rekate

Which of the following following best describes what type of case report this is?: An unexpected event in the course of observing or treating a patient

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?: 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?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

Promyelocytic leukemia is known to be associated with venous sinus thrombosis. In fact this has been the cause of death and failure. Dural venous sinus thrombosis is a known cause of pseudotumor. We do not know why retinoic acid can be the cause of this condition but if it is the cause the pseudotumor resolves in a very short period of time. The time course of the pseudotumor is consistent with recanalization of a dural venous sinus after thrombosis and is a much more likely cause of the condition. If a venous study was done and showed no thrombosis the report should include that statement. If it was not done the alternative explanation of venous sinus thrombosis must be included. I also would like to understand what the lumbar drain did to reverse the condition other than decrease ICP.
Quality of written English: Acceptable