Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 28 May 2012

Reviewer: Prem Sagar Subramanian

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: New associations or variations in disease processes

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?: No

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:

The authors report their management of a case of pseudotumor cerebri associated with ATRA use. They demonstrate that a temporizing measure (lumbar drainage) may be useful in this usually self-limited disease. Useful points to discuss would be:

1. Over what period of time were the 5 cycles of intrathecal chemo given? Did the papilledema remain stable during this time?
2. Is it possible that lumbar drain insertion "broke the cycle" of the PTC, as we postulate occurs in some idiopathic cases?
3. Such a rapid resolution of papilledema with lumbar drainage is interesting, as in my experience, ONSF can give such a day-to-day measurable change, while CSF diversion can take weeks to be effective.
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:
No competing interests.