Reviewer's report

Title: Plasma exchange in severe leptospirosis with multi-organ failure: A case report

Version: 1 Date: 6 February 2013

Reviewer: Gaurav Gupta

Comments to authors:
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. There are two substantial issues with the manuscript. Please see comments to authors.

Is this case worth reporting?
Yes. Please see comments.

Is the case report persuasive?
Not entirely. Please see comments.

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?
Not sure.

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?
Yes
Comments to authors:
The authors coherently and convincingly describe a case of leptospirosis which presented with acute liver and kidney failure. Unfortunately, there are two major issues with the manuscript -

1. It is well known that acute liver and kidney injury are both presentations of septic shock. It is difficult to attribute recovery of the patient to plasmapheresis rather than treatment of sepsis with IV fluids, pressors and antibiotics.

2. The second issue is that the differential diagnosis of this case is a hemolytic uremic syndrome/thrombotic microangiopathy. While the authors are to be commended for reporting the findings of a peripheral smear the other markers of hemolysis including an LDH/haptoglobin etc are not reported. They need to be included in the results.