Reviewer’s report

Title: The emergence of non-secretory multiple myeloma during the non-cytotoxic treatment of essential thrombocythemia: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 1 May 2013

Reviewer: Guido Finazzi

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: An unexpected association between diseases or symptoms

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?: No

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: Yes

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

This paper describes the unusual development of a non-secretory multiple myeloma in a patient with essential thrombocythemia treated with anagrelide. Laboratory studies of angiogenic factors have been also reported. I have the following comments for a revision of this case report:

1. Abstract. Last lines. The final statement "Our results suggest that angiogenic factors... can have an impact on the further course of the disease" is not supported by data presented and should be omitted.

2. Case presentation. First para. I would not say that a patient with hemoglobin 135 g/L has anemia.

3. Case presentation. Second para. Anagrelide is licensed in Europe as second-line therapy in high-risk ET patients resistant or intolerant to hydroxyurea.
Why this patient was given anagrelide as first line treatment?

4. Discussion. Second para. Avoid repetitions (e.g. first line) and correct "leukemias" and "was found"

5. Discussion. Third para. The Authors rightly stated that this case is interesting because the patient received a non-cytotoxic therapy for ET before the onset of myeloma. This issue is worth to be more extensively commented.

6. Conclusion is not necessary, not supported by data presented (see also point 1 above) and should be omitted.

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests