Reviewer's report

Title: POEMS Syndrome with Cranial vault Plasmocytoma: Could surgery play a role in its management? Case Report.

Version: 1 Date: 30 May 2013

Reviewer: Bulent Bakar

Which of the 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?: 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?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The authors should response to some questions and should detail their case by using of the other diagnostic criterias of the POEMS syndrome which are described at below:

1. The subtype of the polyneuropathy should be identified (diabetic or other type)
2. Some laboratory results should be inserted to the manuscript
   a. The plasma and urine monoclonal protein electrophoresis (lambda, kapa, beta2-microglobulin etc)
   b. Bence-Jones proteinuria
   c. Serum VEGF level
   d. Serum hormone levels
e. Bone marrow sample/ aspiration biopsy
f. Blood cell count

3. The authors should discuss the differential diagnosis (such as the diagnostic criterias of the plasmocytoma and multiple myeloma).

4. The authors wrote in their manuscript that “adding surgery to the management of this disease might improve clinical outcome and prognosis”. However, they also declared in manuscript that the pulse steroids was initated to the patient preoperatively and continued postoperatively. They should discuss and identify this confused data.

5. The authors should insert the postoperative or follow up brain MR or CT images

6. The authors should use and site new literature data their manuscript as mentined below:

Diagnosis criteria for POEMS syndrome*.

1. Mandatory major criteria
   - Polyneuropathy
   - Monoclonal plasma cell proliferative disorder(almost lambda light chain restricted)

2. Other major criteria
   - Castleman disease
   - Osteosclerotic lesions
   - Elevated serum or plasma VEGF levels

3. Minor criteria
   - Organomegaly (splenomegaly, hepatomegaly, or lymphadenopathy)
   - Extravascular volume overload (peripheral oedema, ascites, or pleural effusion)
   - Endocrinopathy (adrenal, thyroid*, pituitary, gonadal, parathyroid, pancreatic*)
   - Skin changes (hyperpigmentation, hypertrichosis, glomeruloid haemangioma, plethora, acrocyanosis, flushing, white nails)
   - Papilloedema
   - Thrombocytosis or polycythaemia


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

Declaration of competing interests:
I have not disclosed any financial relationship with any company or with any company that makes or markets a competing.
I declare that I have no competing interests