Reviewer's report

Title: A 44-year-old patient with a new-onset seizure disorder after vaccination against Japanese Encephalitis: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 24 September 2012

Reviewer: William Huynh

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Unreported or unusual side effects or adverse interactions involving medications

Has the case been reported coherently?: No

Is the case report authentic?: No

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?: No

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?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The author reports on a case of recurrent seizures in the context of multiple vaccinations, including Japanese encephalitis vaccine (JEV), without another causative aetiology identified, and conclude that the JEV was the cause for the seizures.

Whilst this may be of interest especially as stated by the author, has not been a documented association with JEV, there are issues with the case report that renders the case unconvincing.

First, the patient experienced his multiple seizures in the setting of numerous other vaccinations (not just JEV) being administered around the sound time,
some of which have been reported to be associated with seizure occurrence.
The author constantly states throughout the text that the seizures were a result of
the JEV. Even if the case was in the context of just JEV, a causation cannot be
justified but only an association can be inferred.

The investigation results were also poorly reported and relevant negatives were
omitted. It would have been important to the reader to know whether the MRI
scans of the brain obtained had appropriate sequences performed, for example if
a focus at the temporal or hippocampal regions were undertaken. The lumbar
puncture results need also be reported even though the author stated they were
unremarkable. Equally, the original "normal" EEG results need a bit more detail.

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

Declaration of competing interests:

N/A