Reviewer’s report

Title: High-dose vitamin D supplementation and Plaquenil treats refractory immune thrombocytopenia: two case reports

Version: 1 Date: 7 January 2013

Reviewer: Roberto Stasi

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?: No

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

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:

Page 3 and 4. What was the role of the oncologist in the management of these patients? Did these patients have an underlying malignancy?

Page 3 and 5. For both patients, what rheumatological criteria were used to classify these patients as having SLE and Sjögren’s Syndrome?

Pages 3-5. Were there significant calcium, phosphate, and creatinine levels during vitamin D therapy.

Page 4. Vitamin D levels were not low but normal, although borderline low. Is it customary to give high-dose vitamin D to patients with borderline low vitamin D levels?
Page 4. What was the rationale to increase Vitamin D doses after 1 week of treatment?

Page 4. What do you mean with “In response to this 100-fold decrease”? 100-fold decrease of what? The platelet count fell from 140,000 to 18,000, a less than 8-fold decrease.

Page 5. What were the baseline 25-OH vitamin D levels of this patient?

Page 6. The sentence “While ITP is commonly idiopathic, several treatments are currently in use…” is not logically consequential. Remove the initial part “While ITP is commonly idiopathic”.

Page 7. Can the authors discuss the potential side effects of plaquenil and high-dose vitamin D. What monitoring strategy of these side effects do they recommend?


Page 7. Since patient 1 had normal vitamin D levels, one can speculate that high-dose vitamin D is beneficial in patients with ITP. You may also want to discuss that vitamin D deficiency is an extremely prevalent condition, affecting as many as half of adults and children in the U.S.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have no competing interests