Reviewer’s report

Title: Potential risk of Alfa-glucosidase inhibitor administration in prostate cancer external radiotherapy by the exceptional intestinal gas production: a case report

Version: 3  Date: 20 December 2013

Reviewer: Calvin Thigpen

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?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

Reviewer Comments on “Potential risk of Alpha-glucosidase inhibitor administration in prostate cancer external radiotherapy by the exceptional intestinal gas production: a case report.”

1. The first sentence of the “Case report” section of the abstract needs rephrasing to say “in a patient taking an…”

2. In the first sentence of the introduction, the word “pronounced” is inappropriate; “prevalent” would be a better word choice.

3. The sentence that begins with “Finally we gave up…” needs rephrasing to convey more clearly that the investigators gave up on doing TPCT on the day the patient had so much gas and that this made the patient the first at their institution
to be unable to get TPCT for any reason. This might require two sentences.

4. The use of alpha-glucosidase inhibitors is quite rare today, particularly given the surge in new diabetic medications over the past several years; however, I suppose it’s still possible that someone could encounter this issue and that this case could provide some guidance. The conclusion in both the abstract and in the fuller case report should be phrased more strongly to say that patients who are taking alpha-glucosidase inhibitors for diabetes should discontinue use of that particular medicine prior to beginning radiotherapy of the prostate. There are plenty of other choices for good, and even better, diabetic control.

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.