Reviewers report

Title: Fulminant systemic capillary leak syndrome complicating acute dermatomyositis: A case report

Version: 2 Date: 16 October 2013

Reviewer: Peter Spronk

Which of the following 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?: 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:

The authors improved their report considerably. However, I'm still a bit worried by the course of events. I read about SvO2 values of 35%..... Lactate levels, however, are relatively low in comparison (due to shunting phenomena?). This indicates that indeed severe shock is present despite the measures taken. Although the authors state that they considered ECMO, and they used dobutamine (a debatable choice in this case in my opinion), but what about calcium (probably very low ionized levels of Ca++ and Mg++), levosimendan or more easily available PDE-III inhibitors like milrinone or enoximone to improve diastolic function in this situation where obviously high volumes of pure albumin could have been tried. Only 100 ml 20% albumin seems a very very low dose in this case! Please report the albumin level (probably <10 g/l) and comment on the vasoactive medication and the albumin infusions. Would that be useful in the
next comparable case that you would be confronted with?
I still do not understand what explains the course of things, i.e. what do the authors think is a plausible hypothesis in their patient? They describe the association between dermatomyositis and anasarca, but why could this occur? Do they consider severe autonomic disfunction in relation to the dermatomyositis to play a role? Also, tox screening was negative?

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests