Reviewer's report

Title: Chlorambucil-Induced cytomegalovirus infection: A case report.

Version: 1 Date: 1 February 2014

Reviewer: Markus Gödel

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?: 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?: 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?: Yes

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The authors of "CHLORAMBUCIL - INDUCED CYTOMEGALOVIRUS INFECTION: A CASE REPORT" state that this is the first reported case of chlorambucil induced CMV infection. I think this is an interesting case report, but I have several major concerns regarding the current manuscript.

- There is no diagnostic proof of CMV-pneumonitis. Due to a relevant CMV copy number and a low procalcitonin value it may be a likely diagnosis, but the patient has also been treated with antibacterial, antimycotic and antipneumocystic medications. Especially Pneumocystis and atypical bacterial infections like Legionella disease may have been possible culprits.
- Hillmen et al. report a positive CMV-PCR in 7.5 % of asymptomatic chlorambucil treated patients, so a asymptomatic CMV reactivation may be a
common event and may not be related to the pulmonary symptoms in the described patient.
- Which antibacterial and antifungal drugs have been used for how long? Maybe the clinical course is persuasive for the diagnosis of CMV pneumonitis
- This is not the first described case of CMV pneumonitis in a patient on chlorambucil and steroids. Yadegarynia et al. already described a case with pulmonary CMV infection diagnosed via pulmonary biopsy.
- Figure 2 shows a thoracic CAT scan. Is there any information about pulmonary pathologies from this study?
- Any CRP measurements?
- Parts of the manuscript are not written in standard English.

Hillmen et al., Journal of Clinical Oncology 2007
Yadegarynia et al., Iranian Journal of Clinical Infectious Diseases 2009;4(4):238-240

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have no financial interests to declare.