Reviewer’s report

Title: Lenalidomide in heavily pretreated refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma

Version: 2
Date: 11 June 2014

Reviewer: Francesco Spina

Which of the following following best describes what type of case report this is?: None

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?: 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:

This is an interesting case report about Lenalidomide in DLBCL.

The patient received multiple treatments, and in particular lenalidomide was given as fourth line treatment, concurrently with rituximab at first, then alone, and concurrently with palliative radiotherapy. I wonder why patient did not receive RT after the first line in the area of bulky (cervical lymph node).

There is little prove that lenalidomide has been determinant to treat the 4th relapse, since patient was treated with radiotherapy in each anatomical site of relapse. Furthermore, there is no prove that the adenopathy of the neck (5-10mm) after lenalidomide stop is really disease, since dimensions are not pathologic and both the PET scans before and after this finding were not positive in the neck, and no biopsy was performed. The authors also should explain the
timing of the infections during lenalidomide treatment, which could explain also
the small adenopathy.

Based on this clinical case, Lenalidomide was not important in achieving the
response, but certainly was extremely important in the MANTENANCE of the
response achieved by chemotherapy and radiotherapy, and this could be the
main topic of the case report. In particular, there are very few reports regarding
the concurrent use of lenalidomide and radiotherapy, and this could be an
interesting point in the discussion, e.g. explaining the potential molecular
mechanisms by which lenalidomide could prolong the response to palliative
radiotherapy.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests