Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2  Date: 13 June 2014

Reviewer: Tatyana Feldman

Which of the 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?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: No

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:

Introduction to the case report is very well written. Lenalidomide mechanism of action is expertly described and comprehensive review of clinical trials utilizing Lenalidomide alone or in combination with chemotherapy in DLBCL is provided. However, activity of Lenalidomide in DLBCL, particularly in nonGC DLBCL is very well described and known. Even though Lenalidomide is not approved by FDA for use in DLBCL, based on the knowledge gained from the trials which Authors have listed in the case report, it is widely used for the relapsed/refractory DLBCL in US. Thus, I don’t believe that this case report is a novelty and provide additional knowledge.

Case report is very long and sometime repetitive. It should be more concise., Immunohistochemical markers listed(CD20, MUM1, Ki67, CD5) are not enough for Hans classification of GC vs nonGC. It would be very important to identify
whether this patient had "DOUble hit" or "triple hit" DLBCL. Relapsed Double hit DLBCL has extremely poor prognosis and activity of Lenalidomide in Double Hit DLBCL is not well known. Showing activity of Lenalidomide in Double Hit DLBCL will be more original and novel. Dosing of Lenalidomide is not clear- it is stated as 25 mg daily first time and 10 mg daily q21d out of 28days. If the patient tolerated 25 mg well, why was the dose decreased?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I have conducted research sponsored by Celgene (which is a maker of Lenalidomide). I have participated in advisory board and speaker bureau in the last two years.