Reviewer’s report


Version: 1 Date: 12 September 2013

Reviewer: Alessandro Squizzato

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

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?: Yes

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The manuscript is well-written but deserves some revisions.

1. I do not agree that CMV is the 'obvious trigger' of splenic infarction as reported in the abstract and in the main text. I would suggest to be more modest and to modify the sentence accordingly. As CMV is not usually reported in the list of certain thrombosis risk factors, 'obvious' is not the right term. Moreover, CMV may be a minor risk factor for thrombosis as CMV is a frequent infection but thrombosis occurs only in a very small proportion of the patients. Therefore, other concomitant risk factors should co-exist to provoke thrombosis.

2. The hypothesis about protein S as a major mechanisms of CMV-thrombosis is
suggested but it has no evidence to be supported. Protein S is usually consumed during acute phase of thrombosis to counterbalance the pro-thrombotic factors. So, the rise of protein S one month after can be simply explained by this phenomenon. I would suggest to add this possible explanation of protein S reduction.

3. Citation numbers in the text should be re-written: there are not in a ascending order and many of them do not correspond to the right reference.

3. 'Antithrombin III' should be written 'Antithrombin' (without III).

4. May you better explain the term 'hetero-phil-antibosy mononucleosis' or change it?

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'