Reviewer's report

Title: The treatment of autism with low dose phenytoin: a case report.

Version: 2 Date: 20 October 2014

Reviewer: Ying-Sheue Chen

Which of the following following best describes what type of case report this is?: Other

If other, please specify:

unreported medication using for managing an disorder (autism spectrum disorder)

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?: 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:

1. The author had made some reversion which focusing on the comments.
2. However, the whole manuscript still need some further revision in wording, such as the introduction and case presentation need further shortening and condense.

For example:

a. The sentences of “The improvement in social functioning in conditions such as autistic spectrum disorders was often immediate and more robust using a
sublingual dose. As observed with the sodium valproate, the improvement from the phenytoin appeared to be limited to a narrow low dose range.” (p3, L3-L5) are lacking of evidence and reference, should be deleted.

b. “As this was less than the smallest commercially available tablet the doses were individually prepared by a compounding pharmacist.” It’s not strong related to this report, suggest deletion.

c. ...........

The author didn’t state clearly about the time points of pretreatment and post-treatment assessment of effectiveness with AQ and DASS in text, though author had added the time-point of post-treatment (10th month) in the figure (p8). When did author assess the patient of pre-treatment assessment, post-treatment, 10 months later or 12 months later? It is need further clarification.

It is not mentioned or some are very confused about the assessment time point of medication effectiveness with AQ and DASS in the text. It is also conflicting presentation between the time point in the figure and in abstract. From the text, patient had 2 weeks medication with phenytoin initially (p8.L8), then poor adherence with medication for another 4 weeks (p8.L13). However, he was restarted medication 9 months later (p8.L16). Assessed the effectiveness 10month again as that in the figure. Was it 1 month or 10 months after restart the medication? Besides, author also mentioned “during 12 months of ongoing treatment” in abstract (p2, L11). Whether the 12 months was including 9 months

3. The mechanism of phenytoin in improvement social deficit of ASD is only a speculation, so please use assumption tone in discussion.

**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'