Reviewer’s report

Title: Syphilitic hepatitis: A case report and review of the literature

Version: 1 Date: 23 May 2019

Reviewer: Eleanor Barnes

Reviewer's report:

Hepatitis syphilis review

This in an interesting topic and relevant as syphilis continues to be a serious public health issue in some places, and whilst genitourinary medicine doctors routinely consider syphilis in a differential diagnosis, this will not be the case for many general practitioners and hospital doctors in other specialties, including Hepatology. As such this case history is a useful reminder of the condition of hepatitis caused by syphilis.

I have the following comments:

1. There is no sexual history given and no HIV test result-these are major omissions in the clinical history and blood tests. If this history was not taken and the HIV test not done-then this needs to be declared as a major omission in the case report.

2. The manuscript needs to be edited by an English speaker throughout as there are many grammatical and phrasing errors throughout.

3. More detail should be shown regarding the HBV serology (HBeAg, DNA, sAg) etc.

4. Was HBV looked for in the liver biopsies? Was there evidence of liver fibrosis in the liver biopsy?

5. What are the main learning points from the case? The case could conclude with these?

5. The authors state that the Mullick et al have defined the definition of syphilitic hepatitis-do the author's agree with this definition? What is the definition? This should be stated.

6. Please state in the case report, what the Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction is-and how do you monitor for and identify this.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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