Reviewer’s report

Title: Extrapontine myelinolysis associated with pituitrin: case report and literature review

Version: 3 Date: 31 July 2014

Reviewer: Aaron de Souza

Reviewer’s report:

The article is interesting, in that it describes a patient with hyponatraemia of a relatively rare cause (use of pituitary extract to treat bleeding). The occurrence of myelinolysis following hyponatraemia is in itself not very unusual, and the patient described showed a fairly typical course.

My comments:

1. Were any biochemical tests done to define the mechanism of hyponatraemia in the patient reported? Was the patient euvolaemic, dehydrated or hypervolaemic? What treatment was given: 0.9% saline, hypertonic saline, oral salt, or volume repletion?

2. The clinical description suggests that the patient developed delayed motor symptoms, some days after onset of EPM. The authors might wish to elaborate on this unusual aspect and its possible pathogenesis.

3. What was the basis of using corticosteroid, diazepam and hyperbaric oxygen therapy in the treatment of extrapontine myelinolysis?

4. The case report does not permit one to draw conclusions such as "hyponatremia is the most frequent electrolyte disturbance observed in hospitalized patients." or "Osmotic myelinolysis is most frequently associated with rapid correction of hyponatremia." A citation needs to be included with each statement.

5. The authors might like to elaborate on whether the use of pituitrin or DDAVP is associated with a risk of osmotic demyelination independent of the electrolyte disturbance.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests