Reviewer's report

Title: Takotsubo cardiomyopathy in an adolescent affected by pancreatic adenocarcinoma

Version: 3  Date: 11 August 2015

Reviewer: Javier Ganame

Reviewer's report:

This case reports a teenager who developed transient global left ventricular dysfunction and shock following 5-Fluorouracil administration. This association has been reported previously in older subjects but there is little data on this in younger subjects. This makes this report somewhat novel.

The case report is well written. I find the chemotherapy protocol is explained in too much detail and could be shortened without altering the main message of this report.

The discussion is unfocused. The author start describing what Takotsubo cardiomyopathy is; they then go on to explain mechanisms involved in its development and finally try to describe mechanisms of action and why 5-Fluorouracil may cause ventricular dysfunction.

The main issue with the current report is that the authors fail to prove the point that this patient developed Takotsubo cardiomyopathy. This patient developed transient global left ventricular dysfunction and shock but did not develop several of the typical findings associated with Takotsubo cardiomyopathy. This type of cardiomyopathy is characterized by development of chest pain, ECG changes, a troponin rise and wall motion abnormalities involving the apical left ventricular segments.

How do the authors explain the fact that there was no rise in troponin levels? Did they measure this serially?

The authors could add videos of echocardiograms at presentation and at follow-up to demonstrate findings and improvement.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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:

None