Reviewer's report

Title: Parvovirus B19 infection presenting with severe erythroid aplastic crisis during pregnancy in a woman with autoimmune hemolytic anemia and alpha-thalassemia trait: a case report

Version: 2
Date: 5 December 2014
Reviewer: Amita Jain

Which of the following 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?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: No

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 topic of the case report is quite important and Parvovirus B19 infection should be suspected in every case of transient aplasia. However, certain questions need to be answered before consideration for publication:

1) How was the diagnosis of Parvovirus B19 infection made?

2) Was EBV infection excluded in the patient? EBV has been associated with both transient aplasia and cold antibody autoimmune hemolytic anemia. Additionally, a high incidence of protective antibodies in adults makes Parvovirus B19 a less frequent cause of aplasia in this age group.

3) How can the authors say that the patient acquired B19V infection during second trimester of pregnancy? Was B19V infection checked earlier?
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests