Reviewer’s report

Title: GABA-B Limbic Encephalitis and Asystolic Cardiac Arrest: A case report

Version: 0 Date: 20 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Paolo Ferrero

Reviewer's report:

1. Do you believe the case report is authentic?
Yes/No  yes

2. Do you have any ethical concerns? Please consider if local Institutional Review Board approval or ethical approval was obtained (if appropriate) and if the patient (or their parent or guardian in the case of children under 18) gave written, informed consent to publish this case and any accompanying images. A statement to this effect should appear in the manuscript.
Comments: no

3. Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature?
Yes/No
no

4. Does the article report the following information? Where information is missing, please specify.
a. The relevant patient information, including:
   - De-identified demographic information (age, gender, ethnicity)
   - Main symptoms of the patient
   - Medical, family and psychosocial history
   - Relevant past interventions and their outcomes

b. The relevant physical examination findings
c. Important dates and times in this case (if appropriate, organized as a timeline via a figure or table); if specific dates could lead to patient identification, consider including time relevant to initial presentation, i.e. initial presentation at T = 0, follow up at T = 1 month.

d. Diagnostic assessments, including:
   - Diagnostic methods
   - Challenges (e.g., financial, language/cultural)
   - Reasoning and prognostic characteristics (e.g., staging), where applicable

e. Types and mechanism of intervention

f. A summary of the clinical course of all follow-up visits

Comments:

5. Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?
Comments:

6. Is the anonymity of the patient protected? Please consider any identifying information in images such as facial features or nametags, whether the patient is named etc. If not, please detail below.
   Yes/No
   Yes

7. Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?
Comments:

8. Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature?
Comments: Possibly after revision
Ovens et al. present an interesting case of a patient who was admitted with syncope and that experienced an asystolic cardiac arrest. In this patient a lung cancer was later diagnosed and the author in their paper discuss a possible etiologic relationship. Although the explanation provided represents an appealing clinical message, the link between the neurologic condition and the cardiac event occurred remains mainly speculative. Such an alternative diagnosis stands up only after ruling out any other hypothesis. The days preceding the cardiac arrest there was evidence of high rate atrial fibrillation and sinus pauses that might explain a sinus arrest. To this regard more details about the presence of structural heart disease should be provided as well as use of any antiarrhythmic medications that might have had a pathogenetic role. In a patient with metastatic cancer cardiac collapse are most often caused by pulmonary embolism. Was this event ruled out someway? A more systematic discussion about exclusion of more common cardiovascular causes of asystolic cardiac arrest is warranted.

**Level of interest**

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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