Reviewer's report

Title: Hepatitis B virus reactivation sustained by an HBsAg immune-escape mutant isolate in an anti-HBc positive patient during treatment with sofosbuvir and velpatasvir for HCV infection: a case report

Version: 0 Date: 11 May 2019

Reviewer: Rahul D. Arora

Reviewer's report:

1. Do you believe the case report is authentic?

Yes/No

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:

3. Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature?

Yes/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

7. Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?

Comments:

8. Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature?

Comments:
9. Additional comments for the author(s)?

The lack of emphasis on the social history of the patient or financial burden of treatment has always been a pressing concern. However, your case succeeds to a certain extent in terms of the academic merit it possesses by way of the important hypothesis that it intends to propose. Perhaps you could add a comment on the study on "Evaluation of Hepatitis B Reactivation Among 62,920 Veterans Treated With Oral Hepatitis C Antivirals" which states that though HBV re-activations are common, the occurrence of accompanying severe hepatitis is rare. I would also like to know whether the authors have taken any proactive steps to document the HBV DNA titres in future cases. Please add a note on indications for instituting anti viral treatment (against HBV) while on Directly acting antiviral agents for Hepatitis C as proposed in the AASLD guidelines first published in 2017. Add a note on any recent revisions to the guidelines.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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No