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: 23 Jun 2019

Reviewer: mansoor abdulla

Reviewer's report:

1. Do you believe the case report is authentic?
   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

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: yes

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

7. Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?

Comments: yes

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

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

1. Please add the HBV surface antibody, surface antigen, E antibody, E antigen, and core antibody (anti-HBc) results corresponding to the day of collection in the figure.

2. Please include the anti viral therapy received by the patient described in reference no 11 (Fusco et al) in the discussion.

3. Please mention the indication for performing HBV DNA levels in this patient while the recommendations say that HBsAg-negative/HBcAb-positive patients should be monitored with ALT alone until SVR12, and should be tested with HBsAg ± HBV DNA only if ALT increases or fails to normalize on therapy.

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

An exceptional article

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

Acceptable
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