

Reviewer's report

Title: Primary bilateral adrenal B-cell lymphoma associated with EBV and JCV infection

Version: 1 **Date:** 29 December 2008

Reviewer: Oliviero E Varnier

Reviewer's report:

1. Major Compulsory Revisions: none

2. Minor Essential Revisions:

The article by Barzon et al. contains the interesting observation of the simultaneous presence of EBV and JCV in a primary adrenal B-cell lymphoma. Although it does not provide direct evidence for a causal relationship between viral infection and tumour development, it is an important contribution to the hypothesis that JCV might provide a synergistic trigger to the oncogenic EBV in B-cell transformation.

The observation was a casual event or the result of a specific investigation aimed to identify the causative agent of primary adrenal B-cell lymphoma? The authors are invited to readdress their working hypothesis.

The hypothesis that JCV might act as co-factor of EBV in B-cell transformation is well described although the detection of a very low JCV titre: about 0.1 genome copy per cell is unexpected in a high replicating virus like JCV.

The conclusive phrase of the abstract should be modified as follow "The presence of both EBV and JCV genome sequences suggests the relevance of EBV and JCV coinfection in the pathogenesis of this rare form of B-cell lymphoma."

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests below