Reviewer’s report

Title: Rapidly progressive polyneuropathy due to dry beriberi - rarity or tip of an iceberg? : a case report

Version: 1 Date: 15 April 2010

Reviewer: fernando gonzalez trujillo

Which of the 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?: Yes

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

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:

Greetings, send comments to the article by Drs Howard, Kulkarni, and Emsley Lekwuwa:

1. It is an interesting article by the type of disease they describe, which is rare in presentation and academically is important for multiple risk factors that converge in the patient.

2. Positively highlight the broad and electrodiagnostic screening studies done, did not stay in the "obvious" with its strong history of diabetes and alcohol.

3. I suggest improving data and comments relating to the therapeutic trial was with immunoglobulin, the high titers of antibodies Glycolipid; that are a cause of
neuropathy in the patient? and whether or not the immunoglobulin impact the recovery process?.

4. The risk factors in the patient are many: lack of vitamin B 12, B 1, diabetes, alcohol, macrocytic anemia secondary, etc. was initially a slow process of compromise sensitive at the ends which then associate the acute motor impairment, the question I leave is: Is attributable only to vitamin B 1 deficiency or really the whole process was multi-causal?

In conclusion I think that is a good article, invites you to take a broad differential diagnosis and is academically useful to physicians. Hoping to contribute positively to the article and grateful for his kindness.

Sincerely,

FERNANDO GONZALEZ TRUJILLO
Clinical Neurology, OBSERVER IN NEURO ONCOLOGY.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

i declare that i have no competing interest.