Reviewer's report

Title: Spontaneous remission of Crohn's disease following a febrile infection: case report and literature review

Version: 1 Date: 29 March 2011

Reviewer: Marcel A Behr

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Major compulsory revisions:

The medical description of the case used some unclear terminology (e.g. twisting of the bowel) and left out key information (what did the surgeon report when doing the operation in mid-March and what did the pathology report state about the excised material). The medical description needs to be edited by an MD (potentially the patient’s treating doctor) to ensure clarity and accuracy. The time-line should be presented with dates, rather than late-February, mid-March, etc. I do not understand the use of cephalexin for surgical prophylaxis beginning 3 weeks before surgery; normally peri-operative prophylaxis is given...peri-operatively. Was the patient receiving this antibiotic for the treatment of a proven/presumed active infection? What is meant by a flu-like infection? What exact symptoms did the patient experience?

The scientific description started off as very interesting, placing this anecdote in the context of the emerging literature that supports an innate immune deficiency in Crohn's disease. However, the discussion was more about Ulcerative Colitis, rather than Crohn's, which made for some confusion in interpreting the historical literature. Given the immune-deficiency paradigm introduced by the authors, I would want to know whether anyone has tried fever therapy for chronic granulomatous disease (which shares pathology and anti-microbial antibodies with Crohn's) or chronic variable immune deficiency (which also shares pathology with Crohn's disease). Are there any case reports / case series of fever resulting in clinical improvement of these established immunedeficiency states?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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