Reviewer's report

Title: Influenza A H5N1 and HIV co-infection: Case Report

Version: 4 Date: 1 April 2010

Reviewer: Philippe Buchy

Reviewer's report:

In this case report, authors describe the clinical evolution of a H5N1 infection in a previously HIV-infected patient. For the first time, they discussed the potential role of adaptive immunity in H5N1 infection, which is extremely important to better understand the patho-physiology of avian influenza infection. Congratulations!

The report is very clear, well written, and suitable for publication.

Few minor discretionary revisions would slightly improve the quality of the paper:

- The name and location of the hospital is not mentioned ("our hospital", page 3)
- When reading the paper, and despite the obviously low CD4 count at admission, we understand that the patient didn’t know about his HIV status and didn’t report chronic health condition. Is that correct? If not, did he get any CD4 count before being infected by H5N1 virus?
- Don’t authors think that corticoids could have also played a role in the A. fumigatus secondary infection? Why would this patient who didn’t report any previous disease just had a fungal (nosocomial?) infection now? It would be interesting to have author’s hypothesis…
- CD4/CD8 data are not available after the patient recovered from his H5N1 infection and before he died?
- Are X-ray chest pictures available at the time of admission (with avian influenza infection), at the time of virus clearance and at the time of A. fumigatus infection? It would be nice to have this pictures published if authors think that they could be informative.

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