Reviewer's report

Title: A case of pulmonary tuberculosis presenting as diffuse alveolar haemorrhage: is there a role for anticardiolipin antibodies?

Version: 1 Date: 12 October 2009

Reviewer: Marvin Schwarz

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Comments to the Authors:

The article by Marruchella, et al, A case of pulmonary tuberculosis presenting as diffuse alveolar hemorrhage: is there a role for anticardiolipin antibodies? This is an interesting case report. There is culture and biologic evidence of tuberculosis in a patient who presented with DAH. In addition this patient had evidence of transient antiphospholipid antibodies. As far as I know this would be a unique case. The antiphospholipid antibodies disappeared after resolution of DAH. The authors do not state if there was evidence of tuberculosis (i.e.: the more typical findings) on the HRCT.

Minor Comments:

In the abstract, in second sentence, should read, “A 43 year old immunocompetent man presenting with dyspnea.” Sentence 4 and 5, change “that” to “and “treatment with isoniazid, rifampicin, ethambutol, and pyrazinamide was successful”. In the same line, instead of “our case” should read, “this case”. In sentence 8 “also” should be omitted. The third sentence from the bottom change to, “In our case the....”. The first sentence of the case presentation should read, “A 43 year old nonsmoking...”. Second sentence, after hemoptysis change to “for one week”. Sentence 3, omit, “professional”. Sentence 6, should read, “physical examination of the heart revealed a regular tachycardia”. I would omit the information about the ECG. Sentence 8 of the case presentation should read “there were no signs of lower extremity deep venous thrombosis”. Sentence 11 should read “the lupus anticoagulant test....” In the case report the last paragraph, sentence 2, change to, “while cultures and a molecular test were positive for MTB” and end sentence. In the second to last paragraph, sentence 4, you point out that clinical findings promptly improve, were corticosteroids added to the therapy? There is really no explanation for prompt improvement after antituberculous therapy. The last paragraph, sentence 1 should read antibodies became negative. Sentence 2, change “stop” to “discontinued” and the rest of the sentence should read, “and isoniazid and rifampicin were continued for 16 weeks. In the last sentence omit, “and blood examinations resulted in the normal ranges”.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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