Reviewer's report

Title: Mycoplasma hominis necrotizing pleuropneumonia in an immunocompetent adolescent

Version: 2 Date: 27 March 2010

Reviewer: Ran Nir-Paz

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. M. hominis specific Taq man primers can detect some other mycoplasma species according to the primers provided. Therefore, authors need to provide reference to sequencing data and to submit the sequencing data to the NCBI database. Additionally they need to provide information regarding homology to known sequences.

2. Chest tube insertion by itself is not a surgery (page 5). However if additional surgical procedures were done (pericardiectomy with window, decortication of lung?) then please specify the exact procedure and avoid the use of the non informative term “surgery”.

3. Case presentation is still lacking important information. At the end it is stated that the patient was admitted for 19 days to the ICU. However, no clinical information on the case presentation can hint for instability that would require ICU admission. Thus: did the patient had respiratory instability? Problems with oxygenation? Tachypnea? Was she ventilated? If yes for how long? Did she have fever? I assume that clinical presentation in this case was dramatic and impressive which might explain the type and extension of initial antibiotic treatment. This is not reflected in the current presentation.

4. Table 1 should be part of the manuscript and not as supplemental material. I would also encourage the authors to discuss the previous case reports in more than 1 sentence in the discussion. The power of a single case report like this comes from the literature review and the critical review of the common and less common features in between the cases.

Minor revisions:
1. Page 3 - I would not use “rarely”. Uncommonly will be more appropriate for this pathogen. As is correctly stated later on the page.

2. Plenty of typos. For example authors are not consistent on the way they write M. hominis throughout the text.

3. The sentence “Mycoplasma hominis could be an underestimated cause of severe pneumonia in immunocompetent children,…” should be deleted. Adolescents are not children especially if sexual intercourse is major risk for colonization. Additionally this sentence is too speculative by its’ nature.

4. Page 7 top line NCCLS is now CLSI – please correct. Additionally the CLSI
have published guidelines for mycoplasma breakpoint and that should be quoted.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**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.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests