Reviewer’s report

Title: Histoplasmosis Infection in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis, 1998-2009

Version: 1  Date: 6 February 2011

Reviewer: kevin L winthrop

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Minor revisions

page 2. Results "most were on combination therapy with DMARD or DMARD/CS" Does this mean combination therapy of two DMARDs?

Patient 12---this is perhaps the most important part of you report. I would strengthen your discussion around this case. To my knowledge, recrudescent disease during azole suppressive therapy has not been reported in the context of TNFi resumption. With this case, and the remainder of your case series, how do you recommend handling patients who have been fully treated for histo and who need to resume TNFi therapy? Do you think they need to be on suppressive azole therapy? Why or why not. I would recommend you cite and include discussion from recent Hage et al paper on this topic

Discussion---first paragraph "There are no evidence based guidelines on for its diagnosis and management." While I agree the IDSA guidelines are dominated by expert opinion, the document does contain some evidence and I'm not sure the statement as written is entirely fair. Would reconsider rephrasing.

Given you have a denominator (all RA patients over a certain time-period), it would be ideal if you could give some sort of incidence or prevalence figure for your RA cohort.

You recommend the use of chest radiography to screen fro prio granulomatous infection. It is unclear how such information would be useful, particularly as you state that in highly endemic areas a majority of the population has been exposed to histo before. The presence of granuloma on CXR is not predictive of anything in terms of future disease (neither TB nor histo). If you wish to make this recommendation, I would provide data or at least theoretical ideas as to how this could be useful.

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.