Reviewer's report

Title: Actinobaculum schaalii an emerging pediatric pathogen?

Version: 1 Date: 18 May 2012

Reviewer: Majdi Al-Hasan

Reviewer's report:

This case report describes an infant with neurogenic bladder and possible cystitis due to A. schaalii. The report is very well written and the literature review of previously published pediatric cases is informative. I have few comments regarding this manuscript.

Major comments:

1. It is hard to differentiate cystitis from asymptomatic bacteruria in this case. The infant was afebrile and otherwise asymptomatic. In addition, the number of WBC in the urinalysis was not very impressive. Why did the author think the patient had cystitis and needed treatment?

2. Were previously reported pediatric cases also asymptomatic? Please comment on that in the Discussion section.

3. Is urine Gram-stain useful to screen patients who are at risk of A. schaalii UTI?

4. For the most part, microorganisms with > 100,000 CFU in urine culture are considered significant. Less colony counts may be considered contaminants. Since A. schaalii is hard to culture, how can physicians differentiate a significant colony count from a non-significant one?

5. Please comments on how in vitro antimicrobial susceptibility testing can be done in the lab.

Minor comments:

1. First sentence of the last paragraph in the Discussion section: please add “respectively” at the end of the sentence. This is important since many pediatricians do not use ciprofloxacin in children.

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:

No