Author's response to reviews

Title: A traveller presenting with severe melioidosis complicated by a hemodynamically relevant pericardial effusion: a case report

Authors:

Detlev Schultze (detlev.schultze@zlmsg.ch)
Brigitt Müller (brigitt.mueller@hin.ch)
Thomas Bruderer (thomas.bruderer@zlmsg.ch)
Günter Dollenmaier (guenter.dollenmaier@zlmsg.ch)
Julia M Riehm (juliariehm@bundeswehr.org)
Katia Boggian (katia.boggian@kssg.ch)

Version: 2 Date: 4 March 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Article type: Case report

Title: A traveller presenting with severe melioidosis complicated by a hemodynamically relevant pericardial effusion: a case report

Authors: Detlev Schultze, Brigitt Müller, Thomas Bruderer, Günter Dollenmaier, Julia M. Riehm, Katia Boggian

Dear Madam

Dear Sir

We report a severe case of melioidosis in a traveller returning to Switzerland. This case shows an unexpected and unusual complication of melioidosis, a tropical disease caused by *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. Unexpected because, as to the best of our knowledge, melioidosis complicated by a hemodynamically relevant pericardial effusion has not been reported in a traveller so far. Unusual because pericardial effusion is a rare complication in melioidosis and severe forms of melioidosis are seen mostly in patients with alteration of immune status, which is not applicable in this case. Physicians and medical laboratories in non-endemic regions are not familiar with the clinical spectrum and diagnosis of melioidosis. In particular, melioidosis should be considered in the differential diagnosis of pericardial effusion in travellers.
Affiliations and addresses of authors:

Detlev Schultze, MD, MSc, detlev.schultze@zlmsg.ch; Thomas Bruderer, PhD, thomas.bruderer@zlmsg.ch; Günter Dollenmaier, PhD, guenter.dollenmaier@zlmsg.ch; 

Center of Laboratory Medicine, Frohbergstrasse 3, CH-9001 St. Gallen, Switzerland.

Brigitt Müller, MD, brigitt.mueller@hin.ch, Department of Internal Medicine, Cantonal Hospital, Rorschacherstrasse 95, CH-9007 St Gallen, Switzerland.

Julia M. Riehm, DVM, juliariehm@bundeswehr.org, Bundeswehr Institute of Microbiology, Neuherbergstr 11, D-80937 Munich, Germany.

Katia Boggian, MD, Katia.boggian@kssg.ch, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, Cantonal Hospital, Rorschacherstrasse 95, CH-9007 St Gallen, Switzerland.

Detlev Schultze acts as corresponding author, to whom correspondence and reprint requests should be sent:

Center of Laboratory Medicine, Frohbergstrasse 3, CH-9001 St. Gallen, Switzerland, email detlev.schultze@zlmsg.ch, telephone +41714943720, fax +41714943785.

The co-authors agree to the submission of the manuscript and also agree that the corresponding author, Detlev Schultze, acts on their behalf in all matters pertaining to publication of the manuscript.

There are no commercial affiliates or consultancies or other interests that could pose a conflict of interest regarding the submitted paper.

Sincerely yours

Detlev Schultze