Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Philippe Eggimann

Reviewer's report:

The authors report a case of community-acquired pneumonia in an immunocompetent returning traveler from an endemic area for melioidosis, in whom the microbiological documentation could only be obtained by isolation of Burkholderia pseudomallei from pericardial liquid.

As all other cultures, including blood, pleural liquid and sputum, were negatives, the authors emphasized that this melioidosis should be considered in the differential diagnosis of pericardial effusion in travelers, even in the absence of risk factors.

This is an interesting case report suggesting that extensive investigations including sampling for cultures and other microbiological testing should be systematically performed in returning travelers. I have only few minor comments:

1. Title: the title may be simplified “hemodynamically relevant” may be deleted from the title
2. Abstract: Did the authors consider to qualify the hemodynamic effect of the pericardial effusion as “significant” rather than “relevant”
3. Case presentation: What was the time to get the diagnosis of melioidosis?
4. Discussion: The authors specify that empirical treatment with amoxicillin/clavulanate was inadequate. However, this may be responsible for the absence of growth of Burkholderia pseudomallei from samples other than pericardial fluid. This may also explain why the patient did not develop a septic shock as recently reported to be very common in patients with primary pneumonia (Meumann EM et al. Clinical features and epidemiology of melioidosis pneumonia: results from a 21-year study and review of the literature. Clin Infect Dis. 2012 Feb 1;54(3):362-9.)

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.
Declaration of competing interests:

I have no conflict of interest to declare in relation to this case report or its publication