Reviewer's report

Title: Acute Monoarthritis in a Delayed Diagnosis of Syphilis Patient with Persistent Rupoid Psoriasis-like Lesions

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Reviewer: Arlene Sena

Reviewer's report:

Major revisions:
The authors present an interesting case report of an HIV-negative patient from China with a positive RPR/confirmatory test, a 10 year history of rupoid psoriasis-like lesions and monoarthritis. Based on serologic tests, IHC demonstrating spirochetes, and clinical response after penicillin and doxycycline therapy, the authors conclude that this case implies secondary syphilis.

However, I do not agree that this case is consistent with secondary syphilis based on their presentation, which is the main flaw of the paper. The authors discuss the possibility that this is a manifestation of late or tertiary syphilis requiring longer duration of therapy, which I think is more plausible given what we know about the natural history of the disease. Furthermore, the authors fail to consider the possibility of nonvenereal treponemes that can present with positive serologies and respond to treatment, such as the organisms that cause yaws or bejel. If available, Tp PCR testing would have been helpful from the skin biopsies.

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:

NO